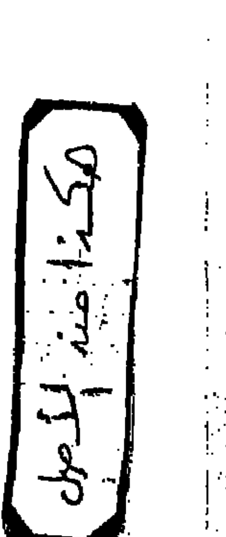
Routes to tour in Germany

Wertheim
Reichelsheim
Bensheim
Miltenberg
Michelstadt
Amorbach
Worms

The Nibelungen Route







2



German roads will get you there – to the Odenwald woods, for instance, where events in the Nibelungen saga, the mediaeval German heroic epic, are said to have taken place. Sagas may have little basis in reality, but these woods about 30 miles south of Frankfurt could well have witnessed gaiety and tragedy in days gone by. In Worms, on the left bank of the Rhine, people lived 5,000 years ago. From the 5th century AD the kings of Burgundy held court there, *going hunting* in the Odenwald.

With a little imagination you can feel yourself taken back into the past and its tales and exploits. Drive from Wertheim on the Main via Miltenberg and Amorbach to Michelstadt, with its 15th century half-timbered *Rathaus*. Cross the Rhine after Bensheim and take a look at the 11th to 12th century Romanesque basilica in Worms.

Visit Germany and let the Nibelungen Route be your guide.

1 The Hagen Monument in Worms
2 Miltenberg
3 Odenwald
4 Michelstadt
5 Wertheim





3

The German Tribune

…mburg, 5 August 1984
…enty-third year - No. 1143 - By air

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Soviets launch propaganda campaign against Bonn

DIE ZEIT

Moscow is in the middle of an aggressive propaganda campaign …inst Bonn. The tone has not been …e vitriolic for decades.

The Red Army newspaper even re…ed a victory parade in which Stalin …German PoWs marched across Red …uare.

Forty years later, the newspaper re…ed to them as "Fascist animals," …rmin," "brown hordes" and "insati…le locusts." The march-past had been …owed by dustcarts that swept up the …n and the spirit of Fascism."

For months the Kremlin has launched …e after wave of propaganda against …scovered Bonn revanchism and im…alism, and they foam higher by the …, mounting from malice to hatred.

…Germany's Christian Democrats are …rtrayed in cartoons as kneeling in …

…of Rudolf Hess as he wields a …odstained executioner's axe.

The Bonn government is said by *Izves…* to be considering transforming Ger…n territory into "Star Wars bases." …n Defence Minister Wörner is said by …vda to have held a "missile revel" with US Defence Secretary Weinberger in Washington.

"Greater German expansionism is be…g activated on the pretext of reunifica…n," says Poland's General Jaruzelski. …he needs the spectre of Germany to jus…fy Soviet hegemony over his country.

The Polish leader's contention is an …precedently harsh attack on Bonn …d, indirectly, on the GDR too. Moscow's agitation campaign is currently backed to the hilt by Warsaw and largely backed by Prague.

It got off to a fairly slow start after missile deployment in the Federal Republic of Germany last November and is undermined by other East Bloc states and boycotted as far as they can.

There are three motives behind the Soviet accusations:

- Nazis, Christian Democrats and clerical circles are claimed to be aiming at a revision of post-war borders again. The note on German unity accepted and co-edited by Moscow in 1970 is suddenly cited as evidence of West German revanchism.
- The Federal Republic is said increasingly to be departing from military restrictions agreed by the Allies (to quote General Jaruzelski). Moscow in this context refers to the Potsdam Agreement, which is in no way binding on Bonn.
- West Germany is said to be the largest "warehouse" of American nuclear missiles and to be threatening to become a launching pad for Washington's space weapons.

Moscow has a trio of motives for this agitation: one to do with foreign policy, another to do with the Soviet bloc and the third a domestic one.

First, the Kremlin is rearranging its policy on Europe and Germany in the wake of the failed campaign to prevent US missile deployment and to drive a wedge between Western Europe and the United States.

Second, as Moscow's counter-campaign in support of a further deployment of Soviet missiles has flopped, triggering more cordial ties between Eastern and Western Europe rather than a fresh Ice Age, the socialist states are to be inculcated with fresh fears of contact with the Federal Republic.

Third, Moscow is preparing for the greatest patriotic mobilisation for years to mark the 40th anniversary of victory over Hitler's Germany in May next year.

It is intended to stem the tide of economic, societal and ideological substance forfeited by the Soviet Union. For weeks Mr Chernenko and Marshal Ustinov have proclaimed as an objective an ideal reminiscent of the Stalin era:

"The Soviet people must be taught even more persistently to love the homeland, to hate its enemies and to be constantly prepared for acts of heroism."

Such language is an admission of a disturbed, of a failed relationship with one's surroundings.

Moscow long wooed Bonn and sought to persuade it to take a more detached view of Atlantic partnership, which would have reduced its standing in the Western alliance.

It now seems to have realised that it has accomplished the exact opposite. The peace movement has failed to prevent missile deployment and has gradually disintegrated. The WEU has decided to waive the ban on Bonn manufacturing conventional strategic bombers and long-range missiles.

This is seen by the Kremlin as a change in the post-war order and the very improvement in Bonn's status it sought to prevent.

Vadim Zagladin of the foreign affairs department of the CPSU central committee recently raised the old spectre of a European Defence Community which, he claimed, was being resurrected under German leadership.

In the heart of Western Europe relations between Christian Democrat Helmut Kohl and Socialist François Mitterrand, whose government now no longer includes Communists, have progressed better than expected.

Relations between Bonn and Washington have remained cooler, but the military alliance between Germany and America still works.

This is seen by the Kremlin behind the all-smiles offensive waged by Helmut Kohl since his first visit to Moscow a year ago. The Bonn Chancellor has sought in vain where the Soviet Union is concerned to paper over missile deployment in a display of goodwill.

Moscow has grown even more embittered by the fact that a majority of East Bloc states, economically reliant on the West, have smiled back.

Eastern Europe has shown greater repugnance to the East's missile build-up than to the West's. The Kremlin has been deprived of its revenge and is hoist by its own petard.

That is why transfer of the main emphasis of Soviet propaganda from the militarily incredible total campaign against missile deployment to the old standby of revanchism agitation (accusing Bonn of "territorial demands" in Europe) makes sense.

The bogeyman remains the same and the military are still setting the pace: not.

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Genscher in Tehran

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) has become the first EEC foreign minister to visit Iran since the Islam revolution in 1979. Here he is in Tehran with the Iran Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati (See page 2).

(Photo: Sven Simon)

That Soviet truck

The Soviet truck at the centre on an 11-days Swiss-Soviet-German wrangle over its contents, claimed by the Russians to be radio equipment. It was halted in West Germany just as it was about to pass into East Germany on its way from Switzerland back to Russia. After an external inspection of the cases on the vehicle, it was allowed to proceed.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Genscher visits Tehran in bid to pick up the pieces

Allgemeine Zeitung

In over 10 years as Bonn Foreign Minister there are few leading world capitals Hans-Dietrich Genscher hasn't visited. Until 20 July Tehran was one of them.

His three-day visit to the Iranian capital, accompanied by commercial and industrial executives, was the first by an EEC Foreign Minister since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

It was not the easiest of visits, given the Gulf war Iran and Iraq have waged for nearly four years.

German firms are doing flourishing business with Iran, but trade faces serious threats, and human rights is sure to have been one of the issues raised in Tehran.

Bonn diplomats said the overriding political objective was to resume the dialogue with Tehran, which had dwindled to little more than a trickle after the revolution.

The aim was to re-establish communications as they existed before 1979.

There are no bilateral problems between Iran and the Federal Republic of Germany at present, which has not always been the case.

There was an attempt to assassinate the German ambassador in Tehran, the occupation of the Iranian embassy in Bonn and strongly-worded verbal attacks on Bonn by Iran.

They all occurred in the aftermath of the 1979 revolution, when the Shah was ousted by the Shi'ite leader, Ayatollah Khomeini.

The Bonn government exercised demonstrative restraint at the time, repeatedly describing events as Iranian domestic affairs.

This restraint soon bore dividends. In the negotiations leading to the release of the US embassy hostages in 1981 Bonn's mediation was by no means unimportant.

Bonn still stresses the restraint it observed while Iran was shaken by revolutionary tremors. The lack of acute bilateral problems is said to be a main reason why Herr Genscher has visited the war-torn, crisis-shaken Gulf region.

He was bound to call for a swift end to the Gulf war, but diplomatic sources in Bonn say the German government is anxious to maintain its neutral stand and aim at an end to the fighting without playing a direct part as an intermediary.

German commercial and interests set great store by Herr Genscher's visit. He was accompanied by representatives of the DIHT, or Standing Conference of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the BDI, or Confederation of German Industry.

They hoped he might succeed at least to some extent in easing the pressure lately brought to bear on German exports to Iran.

Last year was a boom year for German exporters, but 1984 threatens to be a slump year, with Iran determined no longer to accept the enormous deficit in trade with Germany.

Exports to Iran last year totalled DM7.7bn, or nearly DM1bn more than in the last full year of the Shah's regime.

In the post-Shah era political dialogue may have been hit by a freeze, but trade flourished, with Iran becoming the largest German export market in the Third World and the most important in the Near and Middle East.

Yet Iran last year exported goods worth a more DM1.5bn to the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Tehran government, feeling the DM6.1bn trade deficit is far too high, is considering imposing restrictions on imports from Germany.

The deficit is mainly due to the decline in German imports of crude from Iran, which used to be one of Bonn's main oil suppliers. At present, so the Bonn Economic Affairs Ministry says, Iranian oil is not competitive on the German market.

Yet the German-Iranian Chamber of Commerce and Industry strongly advises boosting imports of oil from Iran, as also of other products, such as carpets, dried fruit and caviar.

Steps in this direction may not reduce the trade deficit to any great extent, but they could well improve the atmosphere psychologically, or so it is hoped.

These problems aside, Iran remains keenly interested in educational cooperation. The chamber of commerce says the Iranian Education Ministry would like to train 30,000 engineers with German assistance. That was one reason why Herr Genscher's party included university representatives.

Peter Rall/rtr
(Allgemeine Zeitung Mainz, 21 July 1984)

Continued from page 1

perhaps, to the conference table but at least to a more realistic line of argument.

Marshals Ogarkov and Tolubko have announced that it is impossible to destroy all Soviet weapon systems at one fell swoop, thereby making nonsense of the main propaganda argument against missile deployment by the West.

For months Messrs Zamyatin, Falin and General Chervov assured West Germans that Pershing 2 missiles were capable of "decapitating" Soviet defence capacity.

In the East Bloc Moscow's campaign to reply in kind to missile deployment by the West has imposed fresh budget burdens on socialist states and proved a political fiasco. Ideology and propaganda have come to grief on the economic realities of Eastern Europe.

Here too the Kremlin has wrongly assessed the Germans. Economic necessity has transformed the GDR's Erich Honecker into a peace politician who constantly argues the case for arms control.

His insistence on East Berlin's own interests, particularly in dealings with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko, has enormously increased his prestige in other Eastern European countries keen on greater independence. GDR officials there are no longer viewed as the Ugly Germans.

So the Kremlin's offensive against what Radio Moscow calls "pan-German revanchism fever" is aimed at deterring East Berlin as well as Bonn, with the Soviet Union agitating and demonstrating at all levels against intra-German ties gaining a momentum of their own.

Moscow is not amused by Herr Honecker's projected visit to the Federal Republic. His commitment to go ahead with the visit in an interview was ignored by *Tass*, the Soviet news agency.

Pravda has indirectly criticised the DM950m Bonn-backed loan to the GDR, and even the East German leaders' quest for a sense of national identity is called in to question.

While East Berlin hailed the July 1944 attempt to assassinate Hitler as a "courageous act of historic and national importance," the Red Army newspaper dismissed the German resistance movement as "conspirators who were already in favour of an alliance with US imperialism."

Moscow's propaganda campaign has short-term political targets. But the GDR leaders have so far reacted flexibly, pragmatically and with no outward signs of nervousness.

The report by the politbureau to the eighth plenary session of the East German Communist Party does not accuse Bonn of revanchism (the Soviet accusation). It merely advises Bonn to bury everything that is said in "Sunday speeches."

Strong nerves and stamina are called for. The Kremlin can be sure to step up the pace of its campaign and to maintain it until at least the first half of next year regardless of the US Presidential election outcome.

The Soviet Union is neither able nor willing to dispense with trade with the West, but trade alone is no guarantee of safety. It reduces neither arms overproduction nor the view taken of potential enemies.

Provided the Bonn government calmly lays bare the working nucleus of the current Kremlin campaign while bringing its influence more imaginatively to bear in the West for a return to a serious policy of detente, it can continue with an easy conscience until the Kremlin reverts from agitation to discussion.

In the long run a world power cannot pursue its interests by refusing to engage in politics.

Christian Schmidt-Häuer
(Die Zeit, 27 July 1984)



El Salvador's President Duarte (left) and West German President von Weizsäcker in Bonn. (Photo: ...)

El Salvador leader takes his country's case to Bonn

José Napoleon Duarte has received the support in Bonn he might expect to be lent as the democratically-elected President of El Salvador.

If there is any hope for a country wracked for years by civil war and caught in a cleft stick by left- and right-wing extremists, then he is it.

Strengthening his hand is in the interest of the Salvadorian people and in the interest of stability in the entire region. The Bonn government has happily appreciated the fact and reached appropriate conclusions.

The resumption of development aid in the form of DM50.6m in financial and technical assistance is at least as important as the political attention President Duarte was paid by Chancellor Kohl, President Weizsäcker and Foreign Minister Genscher.

The Salvadorian economy needs a shot in the arm. Without growth, as he forcefully pointed out, lasting solutions, especially to pressing social problems in his country, will be impossible.

One can but hope that German industry will heed President Duarte's appeal to "open the door when we knock."

The prevailing restraint may be understandable but it must be overcome, otherwise disappointment may seriously jeopardise El Salvador's experiment in democracy.

That would be grist to the mill of those who are all in favour of aid to the Sandinist dictatorship in Nicaragua and accuse President Duarte of being an accomplice to genocide.

The blind-eyed political demonstrators who chant "Duarte Out!" and accuse Bonn of being a stoolpigeon of Reagan policies have no interest in democracy or human rights in Central America or anywhere else.

The government is to be congratulated on having stood its ground and resisted on this occasion pressure exerted by stoolpigeons of genuine dictatorships.

Bernt Conrad
(Die Welt, 19 July 1984)

The German Tribune

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HOME AFFAIRS

Strauss again figures in the mathematics of Bonn

Will Franz Josef Strauss, Prime Minister of Bavaria, go to Bonn for a ministerial office? The question is not pressing but it is certainly topical.

Not since 1980, when Strauss as Chancellor candidate lost, has his move to Bonn seemed so possible.

Many believe that he will join the cabinet next year when Chancellor Helmut Kohl moves into the second half of his term in office.

The timing is not particularly important. More important is the change that has taken place to Strauss's public image. There has been a change of opinion, at least a change of climate. Strauss is no longer the national boomann. He no longer antagonises the Social Democratic Opposition, or the Greens, or the left generally.

Franz Josef Strauss, the yesterday man who polarised everything, is today, despite his periodic side-swipes from Munich, de-activated.

What has changed, the Bavarian or the spirit of the times? Both would be good. Perhaps it is less to do with the conservative-liberal government of Kohl than with the general political climate.

The atmosphere in West Germany is restrained, calm. The tendency has become conservative.

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

The sense of exhaustion and and relief after the national agitation over the deployment of the Nato missiles may have played a role, whether one is satisfied or not with the politicians in Bonn.

Chancellor Kohl, who is not exactly dynamic, convinces just by his presence. He is there and lets things take their course. Political routine. Stability made in Germany. And then Strauss. After the cold war of words in the 1960s as regards policies towards the East Bloc and Germany policy Strauss has almost become a pragmatic driving force. There is no doubt of that. Strauss has clearly turned 180 degrees. The "murder" reproach against East Berlin after the death of Burkert at a frontier crossing point is no longer on his lips. He "wrapped up" the first billion deutsche marks credit for East Germany.

Strauss, the Germany and East Bloc policy expert. Strauss, the prospective host for the East German head of state Erich Honecker, and as participant in confidential talks with SPD politician Horst Ehmke — who would have though all this possible.

What has surprised the Opposition and the political left (and not only them) is that Strauss has become the driving belt of detente, and is against a return to the Ice Age, that Willy Brandt had falsely prophesied. The former Cold War warrior Strauss suddenly appears as the politician of peace. This change has come about possibly to make it easier for Strauss to get back to Bonn. Indeed as chairman of the CSU he has an indisputable right to a seat in the cabinet. Chancellor Kohl would prefer to see Strauss in Munich rather than in Bonn for the Bavarian has repeated "It does not matter who sits under me as chancellor. But former Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger's experience with the then Finance Minister Strauss during the Grand Coalition was that it was best to have the trouble-maker in the cabinet. It could be a good thing, although it is not possible to be certain about this, that a quieter and more productive Strauss could be useful to Kohl's government were he subject to cabinet disciplines. But with what portfolio? A future cabinet reshuffle could open up all kinds of possibilities. But is a solution possible, with or without the vice-chancellor function for which the FDP would stand fast.

It is possible that the SPD and the Greens could profit from this at the next general election, if Strauss turned up in Bonn. The slogan would be "and in the end we have Strauss as chancellor." But it is certain that it is no longer possible to depend on the anti-Strauss syndrome.

So Strauss to Bonn? The best bet is probably that in the medium-term that is what will happen.

Jürgen Offenbach
(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 18 July 1984)



Kohl and Genscher: "Terrible film".
(Cartoon: Horst Haitzinger/Nordwest Zeitung)

Constitutional Court makes a point

Democracy can only function as teamwork between three powers: government, parliament and the law constitute a system of various, painstaking controls.

The Constitutional Court has taken care to ensure that elected representatives should not be driven into a powerless corner of this power triangle. The Karlsruhe Court has said that the Flick investigation committee can demand to see files that will throw light on the question of party donations.

This was to be expected. The most important task of Parliament is to keep a finger on government. The classic instrument for doing that is an investigation committee. The committe should uncover abuses of power, and for this reason the fathers of Basic Law included article 14 authorising parliamentary investigation committees.

But this weapon is blunt when it is not possible to look at all the papers involved in a specific case.

Certainly the government does not want to impede the work of the Flick investigation committee by withholding Flick files. On the contrary Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg has ap pealed to tax secrecy.

The Constitutional Court has dismissed this argument. The Court took the view that in the Flick affair that involves members of the government the determining factor in the public interest was the need for clarification. Tax secrecy can be safeguarded by the committee.

The Karlsruhe decision is a victory for Parliament and the democratic principle of the division of power.

René Gralla
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 18 July 1984)

Link between state, unions, hits low point

The relationship between state and the trade unions after a long period when they were distanced from each other has reached a new low.

This should not be surprising. In times when there is little to be divided up the fight about the few crumbs of growth has become rougher.

Chancellor Helmut Schmidt in the last days of being in office was at odds with the trade unions. At the Kurt Schumacher memorial celebration in Hanover he contemptuously called them "interest groups". The link between the Social Democrat Chancellor and the workers became fragile.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, conservative but not a firebrand, did not move to mend matters but gave support to one side. In the tough metalworkers/printers dispute he sided with considerable emphasis with the employers.

He called the unions' demand for a 35-hour working week "dumb and irresponsible". Now that the 38.5 hour week has been achieved and the powder-smoke of the strike has vanished the Chancellor's words have given the unions earache.

This would perhaps all be remediable if the next labour dispute was not just round the corner. But this time the government does not find itself in the role of onlooker able to applaud its favourite team from the sidelines, and whistle down opponents.

The state is this time a party to the wage negotiations and must defend the general interest against the interests of a few.

The public services and transport workers union has demanded a 35-hour week garnished with a few greedy side-requests.

When in a few weeks' time the giants collide, when the dustmen begin banging the dustbin lids, where will a mediator emerge, who has the stature to appease?

The public services union chairwoman Monika Wulf-Mathies, who is always striving to come out from under the shadow of her predecessor Heinz Kluncker, will certainly not be prepared to take the blame for a lack of toughness and tenacity.

The work hour wishes of public servants might be less popular than those in the private sector.

The 38.5 figure for which the metal workers and printers fought, whittled down by the steelworkers to 38, is like a stage on the way to the goal on the horizon.

If the public services union failed to achieve this goal they must fear being derided as the foot-sore union.

New Finance Minister Martin Bangemann seems to suspect that the state and unions will run into a cul-de-sac, if they do not try to come to terms with one another and find a way out of the labour crisis.

The Minister has swallowed his hasty words about union legislation that would stifle the wish to strike in the future.

Unlike his predecessor Count Lambsdorff who rode over trade union leader concerns like a nineteenth century hussar, Bangemann tries to form a new Concerted Action.

Concerted Action was discovered by Karl Schiller during his term in office. It involved government, unions and employers associations getting round a table and informally voicing their aims so that the tough hard nuts of their demands could be put to one side.

In 1977 the trade unions left the discussions in anger over the employers obduracy over co-determination. Obstinately they refuse to re-open the dialogue, because they have noted that they would be bound to specific responsibilities.

The omens were not good in the talks that have taken place between the public services union and Interior Minister Friedrich Zimmermann in preparation for the wage negotiations scheduled to take place in autumn. Both sides seem to be getting ready for a battle, the Minister because he plans to order civil servants here and there to be strike-breakers, and the union by holding on to a quiver of Basic Law arrows against such a move.

The mediator and the law have the last word in a labour dispute in which the two sides cannot independently sort out their differences, in a dispute in which from the start the aim is to "annihilate" the opponent.

So long as they can find a way out the rules of the state are functioning, even when occasionally they give the impression that a state of emergency should be declared.

The room for normality has got smaller. Not an inch of space should be wasted.

Jens Gundlach
(Hannoversche Allgemeine Zeitung, 19 July 1984)

■ GERMANY

Poverty, painful experience in the affluent society

The new poverty gap in Germany is the painful experience, for people brought up in a welfare state, that after a year on full dole the welfare cheque is just not enough to make ends meet.

"I've simply abandoned hope," says one of the new poor, a man who earned good money until a few years ago and used to be able to support his wife and family with ease.

They could afford the little extras that are the spice of life in an affluent society. Then he was sacked on grounds of illness.

The family was cushioned from the worst effects of unemployment for the first year of entitlement to full benefit but has since been one of the growing number of welfare recipients on the brink of what Germans regard as subsistence.

Residual unemployment benefit is not enough. The family has to apply for welfare allowances to make sure of at least enough to eat. The erstwhile breadwinner is 43 and still in poor health.

He is unlikely to find a job even if there is a substantial improvement in the unemployment rate and many of the 2.1 million who are now out of work find employment.

His case is anything but a sad exception to the rule. His plight, and that of others raised by the trade union movement, was predictable.

Every month more and more people no longer qualify for the full unemployment benefit because, for instance, they have drawn it for a full year and are still out of work.

Not everyone is entitled to it in the first place. At present 35 per cent of the unemployed still draw full benefit, 28.4 draw reduced benefit (which is often below the poverty line) and 36.7 per cent have no entitlement whatever.

This third group consists of people who haven't paid unemployment insurance because they left school and were unable to find a job or because they were self-employed and didn't qualify for the unemployment insurance scheme.

If husbands, wives or the family are unable to help them to make ends meet *their only option is to apply for welfare* allowances, and an estimated 50 per cent of potential claimants are too ashamed or otherwise reluctant to do so.

Local government authorities, who pay welfare benefits, are already complaining that one welfare claimant in four has been out of work for over a year.

By German standards this is a dramatic development. Ten years ago 69 per cent of registered unemployed drew full benefit and a mere six per cent the lower rate.

The new poor are mainly older workers and people in poor health, migrant workers and a growing number of young people who go straight from school to the breadline.

They are the ones who know from personal experience what the "new poverty" is like. But the unemployed in general are worse off than they used to be now government spending cuts have steadily eaten away at unemployment benefits.

You now have to have worked longer to qualify, which naturally hits beginners and people who have been unemployed before.

The amount paid in reduced benefit has been cut, and welfare allowances have lagged behind inflation for years.

The poor in the Federal Republic have grown even poorer. They are the ones who are paying the highest price for public spending cuts (no matter how necessary cuts may be).

How macabre it must be for the poor now to learn that in spite of high unemployment the Federal Labour Office has accumulated a surplus of DM2.7bn because expenditure has been lower than expected, partly because an increasing number of unemployed have been out of work for over a year and are drawing lower benefit.

Understandably, local authorities are not alone in wanting to see a change brought about (in their case because of the welfare burden). So do the Opposition and the trade unions.

Politicians on the trade union wing of the Christian Democrats are also calling on the government to make sure that the Labour Office surplus is shared out to help the unemployed.

But more is at stake than allocating DM2.7bn that has suddenly materialised as a surplus.

Living from hand to mouth in this way could easily boomerang if the Labour Office's finances were to take a turn for the worse, and paying full unemployment benefit for longer than 12 months would merely postpone the basic problem.

What is needed is a serious attempt to end the vicious circle of hopelessness that surrounds the long-term unemployed and give them some hope of relief.

That will call for cash, of course, but also, and more particularly, for greater imagination and readiness to risk unconventional measures.

Labour Office officials in Nuremberg are said to be considering additional manpower measures. Whatever happens, we can certainly not afford to ignore the long-term unemployed.

That would be to condemn them to a form of poverty we all felt we had overcome in this country long years ago.

Stefan Geiger

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 17 July 1984)

Minister puts his views on conception, birth

Hamburger Abendblatt

Bonn Family Affairs Minister Heiner Geissler would like to see German public opinion adopt a more positive attitude toward "life in the making." The foetus, he feels, is a living being from the moment of conception.

When he as a Cabinet Minister endorsed this viewpoint it must surely have an effect on public opinion, he argued.

Herr Geissler, a Christian Democrat, has no plans to reform the abortion law as it now stands (which permits abortion in a number of circumstances).

The law as it stood must be upheld, otherwise the "compromise reached between many social groups" could no longer be maintained.

But there was a trend to interpret the provisions as meaning permission was automatic provided abortion was applied for within 10 weeks of conception, and that, he argues, is not what the last reform was intended to achieve.

Provided public opinion came round to a different viewpoint there would be no need to amend the law in its present form. Merely to have amended the law was not enough to salve his conscience as a Christian Democrat.

He stressed the importance of family planning and information on contraception. Both were crucial in helping to prevent unwanted pregnancies. He did not share the objections raised by Roman Catholics.

Helmut Haussmann, general secretary of the Free Democrats, junior partners in the Bonn coalition, has called for coalition talks on family planning counselling and the Minister's views on Pro Familia, the family planning association.

Herr Geissler was quite prepared to hold talks with the FDP in principle. They would present an opportunity of restating the principles on which recognised family planning organisations were to base their work.

dpa

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 19 July 1984)

Family planning body warned

Pro Familia, the family planning association, has come under heavy fire from Bonn Family Affairs Minister Heiner Geissler, who has virtually called on *Land* governments to cancel its subsidies.

Pro Familia is a recognised charity. Its statutes outline its role as that of counselling on sexual affairs and family planning as "a contribution toward public health and societal development by means of marital and partnership counselling, family planning, parental and educational advice and combating illegal termination of pregnancy."

Pro Familia took over from a family planning organisation founded in 1952 that saw its role as that of "promoting families based on a responsible desire to have children."

It provided advice on general family problems, informed the public on methods of contraception and tried to ease the burden of physical and mental harm done by abortion.

Pro Familia runs over 100 advice bureaux, but since the reform of the old abortion law has increasingly concentrated on helping women anxious to terminate unwanted pregnancies.

The Catholic Church and some doctors are strongly opposed to Pro Familia's activities. There have even been raids on its premises.

Pro Familia bases its activities on Article 16 of the 1968 human rights proclamation, which states that:

"Parents have a fundamental human right to decide freely and responsibly the number and timing of birth of their children."

(Suddeutsche Zeitung, 11 July 1984)

■ FLASHBACK

Stauffenberg and the conspiracy

Saarbrücker Zeitung

No. 14, Stauffenbergstrasse in West Berlin now houses the Federal Institute of Applied Geodesy, the prices bureau of the Senator for Economic Affairs and the French consulate-general.

It also boasts a memorial to German resistance to the Third Reich. Forty years ago this grey building in Bendlerstrasse, as it then was, was the headquarters of the high command of the German Army and the place where high-ranking Wehrmacht officers planned to assassinate Hitler and overthrow the Nazi regime.

In the courtyard of the building, in the early hours of 21 July 1944, the ringleaders of the failed coup, Col. Claus von Stauffenberg, Col. Merz von Quirnheim, General Olbricht and First Lieutenant Werner von Häften, were shot by a firing squad.

Early the day before, Stauffenberg and von Häften, his adjutant, flew from Berlin to Rastenburg in East Prussia for talks at the Wolfsschanze, the Führer's HQ. It was an opportunity not to be missed after so many unsuccessful bids to assassinate Hitler.

Stauffenberg had in his briefcase the explosive that was to blow the Führer's bunker and its inmates sky-high.

Himmler and Goering were due to attend the talks but didn't turn up, and the meeting was transferred from the underground bunker to a shed. That was the main reason why the assassination bid failed.

Field-Marshal Keitel ordered Stauffenberg to accompany him to the talks as chief of staff of the Army reserve. He set the fuse in an outer office while General Heusinger was outlining the news from the Eastern front.

He leant his briefcase against a table-leg right next to where Hitler was sitting and left the room on the pretext of making a phone call.

The bomb exploded at 12.42 p.m. The pressure of the explosion was so great that everyone in the room was catapulted out.

In spite of the alarm Stauffenberg and his adjutant succeeded in passing the various guard mountings and driving to the airfield. He was convinced Hitler was dead, and at 3 p.m. his adjutant rang Bendlerstrasse to tell the conspirators the news.

"Hitler is dead" was the password that was supposed to trigger Operation Valkyrie. SS units were to be isolated and leading Nazis such as Himmler and Goebbels taken into custody.

But General Fromm, commander of the Army reserve, was reluctant to give the order to go ahead. He wanted first to know for sure from Field-Marshal Keitel that the Führer was dead.

Keitel said there had been an explosion but Hitler was only slightly injured. Stauffenberg returned to his Berlin HQ and told Fromm Hitler was definitely dead.

"I set the fuse myself during the [illegible]," he said. "It didn't work." Fromm told him. "You must commit suicide immediately."

General Olbricht appealed to Fromm. "General," he said, "the time for action has come. If we don't act now the fatherland will be doomed for ever."

Col. Merz von Quirnheim had already given orders for Operation Valkyrie to go ahead. General Fromm wanted to have the three officers arrested immediately.

"You can't have us arrested," Olbricht calmly told him. "You are mistaken as to who is in control of the situation. We are arresting you."

As preparations for moving troops into Berlin went ahead in Bendlerstrasse, Mussolini arrived at the Wolfsschanze for talks with Hitler and Himmler ordered Stauffenberg's arrest.

The assassination bid clearly seemed to have failed but the conspirators were still determined to go ahead and establish a *fait accompli* in Berlin. But time was rapidly running out.

Major Remer, commander of the local guard battalion, refused to carry out orders and arrest Goebbels. At 6.35 p.m. he spoke to Hitler on the phone.

Ten minutes later, news of the assassination attempt was broadcast in a special bulletin by the Deutschlandsender.

In Bendlerstrasse General Beck, who was to head the new government, and Field-Marshal von Witzleben, who was to be the new commander-in-chief of the Wehrmacht, were in conference.

In Paris Wehrmacht troops had taken the SS and police barracks by storm and disarmed and imprisoned 1,200 men.

Shortly before midnight a company of the Grossdeutschland Regiment marched into the Bendlerstrasse HQ. The end was nigh.

General Fromm announced that Col. Merz von Quirnheim, General Beck,



Claus von Stauffenberg . . . broke his oath (Photo: Archiv)

Col. Stauffenberg and First Lieutenant von Häften had been court-martialled and sentenced to death.

Beck tried to commit suicide but failed. Fromm had to order an NCO to give him the coup de grace. Stauffenberg was shot in the courtyard with the words "Long live Germany!" on his lips.

When the Nazis had fully regained power Fromm was sentenced to death for cowardice in the face of the enemy. The coup collapsed within 12 hours of the assassination bid's failure.

Resistance to Hitler's regime took shape long before Germany looked likely to lose the war. There were resistance groups that worked independently of each other in the early years of the Third Reich.

They included the Kreisau group, led by Helmut von Moltke and including

Continued on page 6

Forty years since July plot to kill Hitler

The resistance group that failed when the 20 July 1944 bid to assassinate Hitler came unstuck was not the only attempt to oppose and oust the Nazi regime. There were many others between 1933 and 1945, historians noted at an international conference held in West Berlin to mark the 40th anniversary of the 1944 coup.

General Halder, the chief of Hitler's general staff, is known to have called on the Führer dozens of times with a pistol in his pocket, but he claimed not to have had the heart to shoot a defenceless man.

A general staff colonel, Claus von Stauffenberg, eventually decided to break his oath and kill the dictator. He may have failed but at least he made the attempt.

Opposition to Nazi rule in Germany ranged widely — from opting out, "domestic emigration" and passive resistance to conspiracy with the political objective of a coup d'etat.

There was honourable collaboration and dubious resistance, as the US historian Klemens von Klemperer pointed out in the final debate at the Berlin conference on the political and moral motives behind the decision to join the resistance.

German opposition to Hitler was slow and hesitant to organise, and it failed to realise the perfection and brutality of the Nazi regime until Hitler was firmly in control. That was mainly because the transition from democratic *rule in the Weimar Republic to dictatorship* under Hitler was not an abrupt one.

The Reichstag was largely excluded from active government by Chancellor Brüning's policy of rule by emergency decree in the early 1930s, while the elected government of Prussia was dismissed by Chancellor Papen's Reich government in July 1932.

Both were milestones on the road from democratic government in accordance with the 1919 Weimar constitution via authoritarian rule to Hitler's dictatorship.

In the early years after Hitler came to power the prospects of resistance to Hitler could hardly have been poorer, especially as the new rulers skilfully put a groundswell of nationalist sentiment to good use on their own behalf.

Bochum historian Hans Mommsen warned against measuring the resistance in terms of tangible success. Experience with present dictatorships had shown that the July 1944 resistance movement stood very little chance of success.

This assessment was reaffirmed on closer scrutiny of the conditions in which the conspirators had to operate.

The situation was much the same for civilian resistance groups but, as the conference agreed, too little research has yet been done on them.

German Society and Resistance to Hitler was the theme of the conference, making it clear that historians plan to pay greater attention to the entire range of German opposition to the Nazis in its various forms and sectors of activity.

Working parties dealt with regional resistance, which was frequently run by small and effectively camouflaged groups.

After the Nazis had broken up larger, wider-based Opposition groups the Social Democrats, for instance, set up sport clubs, card schools and choirs, while the Communists set up underground resistance groups in Berlin, Hamburg, Saxony and Thuringia.

The history of resistance by young people in Germany has by no means been fully investigated. The Scholls were not the only ones to staunchly oppose the Nazi regime.

A number of youth groups, parts of established movements, went underground and set up illegal resistance units.

The Edelweiss Pirates are one instance, the Catholic youth groups another of opposition to Hitler among some young people in Germany.

The conference made it clear that attempts to sound out the extent and importance of German resistance to Hitler as a whole are made difficult by the problem of deciding where to draw a line between active opposition and passive resistance.

The church was cited as an example of opposition to Hitler in many instances being located in an intermediate, "grey" zone between conforming and resisting.

High-ranking civil servants and military men also often had to create the impression of being collaborators for purposes of camouflage.

But could the open criticism of farm legislation by Heinrich Lübke, who was later Bonn head of state, be termed resistance? What, for that matter, about farmers who refused to sell land for military installations?

The answer must surely be that it *probably wasn't. Attitudes of this kind* can certainly not be classified as active resistance.

The Berlin conference debate on resistance to Hitler in German society likewise made it clear that the July 1944 coup was the only active bid to overthrow the Nazis.

The military had initially been a supporter of Hitler and Nazi rule. It later emerged as their most determined enemy. But that, said Berlin political scientist Richard Löwenthal, was in no way a contradiction.

The main motive of the July 1944 conspirators was to restore constitutional government. Harvard historian Harold Deutsch said Leipzig Oberbürgermeister Carl Gördeler, on being asked what was the most serious problem Germany faced, had answered without hesitation.

Gördeler, who was intended to head the new government, said the problem was how to restore human decency in the country.

It was noted at the conference that the GDR has taken to paying greater attention to the July 1944 coup as part of its efforts to promote a sense of history and national awareness.

Einheit, the theoretical journal of the SED, the East German Communist Party, has devoted a lengthy article to Stauffenberg to mark the 40th anniversary of the coup.

The "spokesmen for reaction," it noted, had no right to claim the 1944 coup as part of their own tradition.

The conference felt that young people in the Federal Republic of Germany needed to be taught in greater detail about German history in general and the history of resistance to Hitler in German society in particular.

Axel Schützsack

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 10 July 1984)

■ PERSPECTIVE

Creditors, debtors both wrestling with the horror of Third World debt

DIE ZEIT

Latin America is the scene of a challenge that may prove crucial for the future of the West and relations between the northern and southern hemispheres.

It is the challenge faced by creditors in the North from debtors in the South.

Chancellor Kohl could hardly have chosen a better time to visit Argentina and Mexico, but has he come back with the right ideas on how to defuse the time-bomb of Third World debts?

Politicians have so far let financiers — the banks and the IMF — handle the pressing problem of Third World debts, and they long succeeded in keeping it under control.

In the wake of oil price rises in the early 1970s the developing countries needed cash to hold their own as prices skyrocketed, and the banks generously arranged loans.

They were able to recycle Opec petrodollars to ease the oil shock that would otherwise have floored the Third World.

The developing countries are now roughly $700bn in debt to Western banks and financial institutions, and Latin America accounts for half this staggering total.

The bubble burst in August 1982 when oil-rich Mexico was unable to fund debts totalling nearly $90bn, loans rashly applied for and rashly granted on the assumption that oil prices would continue to increase and Mexico would have no trouble in repaying.

Suddenly, two years ago, bankers realised that their Third World loans had been based more on the desire to earn a quick profit than on level-headed analysis of credit risks.

Leading banks have since closed ranks behind the IMF, which insists on strict terms being fulfilled before sanctioning further loans.

IMF terms are mainly intended to improve the debtor's balance of payments. They must curb inflation, slash public spending, import less and export more.

Banks are only prepared to negotiate fresh loans once letters of intent have been submitted to the International Monetary Fund.

But this approach to crisis management by the banks is increasingly proving to have been built on sand, amounting to little more than new debts for old. In reality neither creditors nor debtors have the least idea how such enormous debts can ever be repaid.

The economic situation in most Latin American countries is catastrophic, with galloping inflation and high dollar interest rates continuing to attract rogue capital to the United States.

Export earnings may be enough to repay interest, but never capital outstanding. Even the most optimistic forecasts work on the assumption that Latin America will need to increase its debts by a further 20 per cent over the next five years.

Shaky loans and doubtful assets are on the increase in all banks' balance sheets. The latest increase in dollar interest rates has led to a $5bn increase in sums outstanding.

Third World debts have long ceased to be merely a financial problem. They are political in dimension. For the debtors it is a matter of economic survival, for the creditors of the future of the Western system of economic cooperation.

South America governments have their backs to the wall. IMF requirements call for more time and greater sacrifices than their precarious domestic positions will as a rule permit. The house of cards has been wobbling for months.

In the Dominican Republic, which is $2.4bn in debt, people took to the streets when the government doubled many prices last April at the IMF's behest. In three days of riots nearly 60 people died and hundreds were injured.

At the end of May Bolivia, with debts totalling $5bn, announced that it would no longer be funding its foreign debts on account of a six-week general strike against the government's austerity plans.

In June the vice-president of Brazil, which is $93bn in debt, laconically announced:

"We will have to find a solution. Debts are constantly increasing and threaten to trigger domestic unrest in Brazil."

Also in June, President Alfonsin of Argentina, which has debts totalling $44bn, said he would not allow debts to be paid at the price of Argentinians going hungry.

From the military government that held power in Buenos Aires from 1976 to 1983 he has inherited a 500-per-cent inflation rate as well as Argentina's foreign debts.

He is not prepared to accept the austerity package proposed by the IMF. He says it would impose too heavy a burden on a democracy that has only just been restored in Argentina.

Mexico, $90bn in debt, is likewise increasingly groaning under the burden of the economies on which the IMF insists. Export earnings are still not enough to repay debts. Fifty per cent of Mexicans are either out of work or underemployed. Inflation is 60 per cent. Crime is on the increase.

Most countries may to a large extent have only themselves to blame for the position they are in. There is invariably a wide gap between the handful of rich people who prefer to invest their money abroad and the many poor people who live from hand to mouth.

Between 1978 and 1982 an estimated $50bn was transferred from Latin America to bank accounts overseas, according to the Bank for International Settlements, Basle. This rogue capital is sorely missed by domestic economies.

But it is less a matter of who is to blame for the situation. The question now is how long the poor will continue to be content with their lot.

The time-bomb of Third World debts is a political challenge for the rich creditor countries too. What would happen if the bubble burst and not just poor countries such as Bolivia but potentially wealthy ones such as Argentina, Brazil and Venezuela were to try and break the stranglehold by refusing to repay either capital or interest?

The international banking system and the Western capital market would be hard-hit. Governments would need to shore up the banks with massive transfusions of taxpayers' money to forestall a repeat of the 1929 Crash.

Borders with other countries would be hermetically sealed, with administrative controls being imposed in a bid to make ends meet. There would be a serious risk of world trade being reduced to barter business.

In this atmosphere of panic and frustration would institutions that have been instrumental in ensuring affluence and security in the West for the past 30 years, such as the OECD, the EEC and even Nato, survive?

Western governments, former British Chancellor of the Exchequer Denis Healey recently noted, are complacently heading for disaster — and the banks with them.

Realising this danger is a first step in the direction of dealing with it. Remedial action cannot be limited solely to one debt rescheduling agreement after another.

Developing countries must see at least some prospect of not being doomed to debt for the next century or so, and that presupposes three points:

• The cure must not take the form of a successful operation but a dead patient. The developed world has a vested interest in political stability in the developing countries.

Debtors have suggested that the rate at which they repay debts might be pegged to their export performance. This is a proposal that accordi... merits serious consideration.

• Developing countries' exports are the key to their credit rating and their growth prospects. They must no longer be additionally hampered by trade restraint on the industrialised countries' part.

The rich countries must increasingly open their home markets to imports from the poorer. "We want to repay our debts," President Alfonsin of Argentina says, "but we must first be allowed to earn the foreign exchange with which to do so."

• Developing countries must no longer be expected to cut down on imports as a cure to their ills. This is an economy that pays for the past but not for the future.

Neither debtors nor creditors stand to benefit from machines standing idle in the developing countries because foreign exchange is no longer available with which to import spare parts.

Western governments have derived initial benefit from arrangements negotiated by the banks and the IMF, but they have spent too long avoiding having to make suggestions on the long-term shape of relations between debtors in the South and creditors in the North.

The Western economic summit in London had nothing but "sugar water" to offer countries in debt, *Le Monde*, Paris, wrote.

Words of praise for the IMF were accompanied by an undertaking to extend credit facilities to help countries that made serious attempts to solve their financial problems.

With the best will in the world Helmut Kohl had nothing more to offer his hosts in Argentina and Mexico. Politicians continue to abide by Churchill's adage that a problem postponed is a problem half-solved.

Yet it is increasingly clear that further delay will not bring about a solution. All it does is heighten the risk of collapse for all concerned. A new North-South policy is needed, for the sake of self-interest, not sentiment.

A reasonable settlement is usually preferable to bankruptcy proceedings, former Bonn Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Karl Schiller recently noted.

The banks are hardly in a position to negotiate the terms of composition proceedings. That is a job for politicians to tackle.

Christoph Bertram

(Die Zeit, 20 July 1984)

The plot to kill Hitler

Continued from page 5

Eugen Gerstenmaier, who was later to become Speaker of the Bonn Bundestag.

There was the group headed by Carl Goerdeler, the former Oberbürgermeister of Leipzig.

They all drew up plans for a new constitution and ideas on how Germany could be governed constitutionally after the overthrow of the Nazis.

There was also an Opposition movement in the Protestant Church led by Pastor Martin Niemöller and a Catholic Opposition led by Cardinal von Galen of Münster.

An important part was played by the Social Democrats led by Julius Leber and Wilhelm Leuschner. Stauffenberg had suggested Leber as head of a new government.

The military Opposition faced the formidable problem of ousting the government in power in the middle of a war, which could easily lead to a "stab in the back" legend.

As historian Hans Rothfels later wrote: "They had to take upon themselves a heavy obligation and a higher responsibility, that of opposing a leadership who ordered sacrifices for the inhuman objectives of a barbaric Greater Germany and were in the throes of a twilight of the Gods decline in which they threatened to lead the entire German people to their doom." Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer expressed the dilemma of opposition to Hitler as follows: "Only by defeat can we make amends for the appalling crimes we have committed against Europe and the world."

After the 20 July 1944 assassination bid about 5,000 members of the resistance were murdered by the Nazis.

A year after the war's end Winston Churchill told the British Parliament that:

"In Germany there was an Opposition who were among the noblest and greatest that have ever occurred in the political history of all nations. Their deeds and sacrifices have laid the groundwork for reconstruction."

Guenter de Thier

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 20 July 1984)

■ THE ECONOMY

'No evidence' of reduced competitiveness

DIE WELT

West Germany is doing well on world markets even though other countries lead in individual sectors, says Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann.

But he told a Bonn press conference that it would be false to close one's eyes to weaknesses. It would also be wrong to copy the Japanese to improve shortcomings.

The main responsibility for winning back and maintaining competitiveness rested with the economy itself.

A study produced at the conference said there was no evidence that West Germany was, in general terms, losing competitiveness in the technical field.

But some companies in certain fields probably did have difficulties.

In 1982 West Germany held first place in world trade for industrial goods with a 16.7 per cent share of the market, with the US second with 15.4 per cent and Japan with 14.7 per cent.

"The economic export slump of 1982 was misinterpreted by many as a weakening of competitivity and this was balanced in 1983."

There was general agreement in West German trade and industry (as was revealed in a recent brief survey) that the West German economy was competitive in price and quality.

Drastic protectionist measures had had an impeding effect on market results in certain areas.

In summary the study said: "The strengths of the range of West German exports remains; a wide range of products particularly in capital investment goods involving high technology, capability to adjust to changing market conditions, 'intelligent' application of high technology, even if production as a whole includes items of domestic or foreign origin."

The Ministry listed a few do's and don'ts and indicated how to make up for weak areas. Copying the Japanese system was neither possible nor desirable.

Tokyo's policies were criticised on the grounds that Japanese economic and social ideas were different and did nothing to preserve and promote a free multi-lateral trading system.

Differences

Furthermore the Japanese system was on the way to a turning point, or at least there were limits to how far the Japanese could go as they have been going, for instance with regard to gaps in the budget.

The Ministry came out against all forms of protectionism and subsidies, including advantages to exports by means of currency manipulation, limitations to exports on high technology goods, bilateral agreements putting restraints on exports or industrial targeting. It would be unhelpful if, because of weaknesses in some sectors, a "technology complex" were to develop.

The study called for a re-think of economic policies on the principles of the free market economy, creating more room for industry to manoeuvre and a strengthening of the inclination to invest.

Economic policies must be geared to maintaining "relatively favourable regional conditions".

Referring to the recent industrial dispute the study maintained the results could be an excessive burden to companies and could lead swiftly to a threat to competitive positions.

As regards the Common Market the Bonn government must be ready to ward off protectionist and interventionist tendencies.

Heinz Heck

(Die Welt, 12 July 1984)

Top three in research

Cash spent on research 1983 ($ billion)

USA 86.5

Japan 26.9

West Germany 19.1

% national product: 2.8% 2.4% 2.6%

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Industry is 'tending towards concentrated ownership'

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

The trend of German industry towards concentration is persisting, according to the monopolies commission.

Every two years, the commission reports on commercial competition in West Germany.

The trend towards concentration eased between 1977 and 1979, says the commission, but between 1979 and 1981, when the economy was weak, concentration in most industries increased again.

The commission examined 40 different industries. In 23, concentration increased, in eight it declined and in nine it was irregular or constant.

In economic sectors that showed an increase in concentration turnover was DM536 billion, those with a declining concentration tendency DM346 billion and the remaining nine DM495 billion of turnover.

The commission sees no need for government action yet. The monopolies commission had achieved, in practice, security and dependability.

Eberhard Kantzenbuch, chairman of the monopolies commission made the suggestion that companies of a certain size should be regulated. The commission had not before given consideration to this point.

According to the Commission's statement the 100 largest industrial undertakings in West Germany had extended their position. They had a turnover in 1982 of about DM723 billion, representing 39.6 per cent of total turnover in production industries. In 1980 the position was 37 per cent.

The first ten in the top "100" were well to the fore for their net value was higher than the next thirty companies on the list.

According to Kantzenbach the top ten, measured in net value terms, were Daimler-Benz, Volkswagen, Ruhrkohle, Thyssen, RWE, Bayer, BASF, Veba and Hoechst. The largest West German undertaking, however, only had 17.5 per cent of the turnover of the similar largest company in the world list.

Economic Affairs Minister Martin Bangemann, commenting on the Commission's report, said that the application of monopoly measures was very important for the future "and the report contributed to clarifying the commercial legal position."

The Confederation of West German Industry criticised the commission for drawing a direct connection between an undertaking's financial power and a possible encroachment on competitiveness.

The Confederation said that at a time when industry needed to restructure itself combination should not be made more difficult.

Heinz Murmann

(Kölner-Stadt Anzeiger, 11 July 1984)

Disagreement over effects of engineering workers' strike

Opinions differ on what effect the long drawn-out engineering workers' strike will have on the West German economy.

Not a significant amount, says the West Berlin-based institute for economic research (DIW).

Its latest report has even adjusted growth forecasts slightly upwards.

Nevertheless it does fear that growth will sag next year and that there will be no reduction in unemployment.

However, the Hamburg-based HWWA institute for economic research disagrees. It says the deal worked out to end the strike will lead to increased costs and less room for manoeuvre.

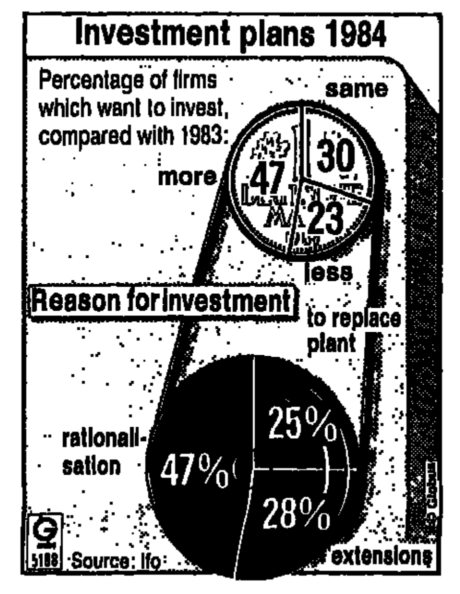
Companies would become increasingly concerned with rationalisation.

DIW maintains in its latest weekly report that two-thirds of the fall-off in production due to the strike and lock-outs will be made up for in the second half of this year.

Additional costs because of the shortened working week plus the wage settlement would be sufficiently limited to leave room for increased profits in the second half of the year.

DIW regards exports as the strongest stimulus to the economy with a price increase of 8.5 per cent. The West German economy will profit from the general increase in world trade and the strength of the US dollar.

There will also be a considerable increase in motives to invest.



In the building industry the institute expects a price increase of six per cent. The researchers also believe that despite an increase in discount rate there will be a drop in interest rates on the capital market during the year.

Unlike previous forecasts the institute now believes that the economic upswing will not lead to a reduction in unemployment, blaming this on government budgetary policy. A considerable backlog of investment demand in the public sector that would create jobs has been dammed up.

The institute maintains that the unemployment figure will remain more or less as it is in 1984 and that the unemployment percentage of nine per cent will not alter although the year will be the third successive year of production increases.

The West Berlin institute regards as acceptable government proposals to relieve the tax burden. The institute appeals to the Bundesbank, the central bank, to maintain a tight grip on the money supply despite the strong dollar.

Next year there will be a general slowing down of economic activity, according to the institute, particularly in the United States where the growth rate will drop from six to three per cent. Developments in Europe will not make up for this.

The West Berlin institute expects that the economic growth rate for 1985 in West Germany will be two per cent, for 1984 almost three per cent.

The HWWA institute believes that the strike settlement will have a bad effect on economic growth and employment.

Increased costs and less room to manoeuvre in pricing policies mean that companies will concentrate more and more on rationalisation measures.

As the new work regulations expire in autumn 1986 the "price pessimism" in industry will be challenged, for new settlements affecting costs will have to be reckoned with.

An aggravating factor will be the failure to do anything about subsidy policies. It was intended to dismantle or limit subventions, but they have continued.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 12 July 1984)

■ AVIATION

Designers swap blueprint for the video screen

Messerschmitt-Bölkow-Blohm (MBB) have designed a civil plane for the first time in Europe, not on a drawing-board, but using video screens, light pointers and computers.

Airbus A320 was designed in every detail on a video screen, the data from the drawings was stored in a computer for transfer to a magnetic tape for the builders or reproduced on micro-film or print-outs.

Computer Graphics Augmented Design and Manufacturing (CADAM) makes it possible to put together billions of parts for mathematically exact blue-prints and drawings of the new Airbus A320. CADAM is a graphic video screen system.

More than 100 CADAM video screens were used in Hamburg and Bremen in MBB's aviation division for the A320.

CADAM software, electronically and graphically controlled equipment, makes it possible to call up in seconds two-dimensional pictures of the A320, elevations, sections and detailed drawings. By means of a transformation parameter drawings can be brought together so that an almost three-dimensional picture is available.

Development and design on a screen not only saves an enormous amount of time as compared with the drawing-board, but also makes it possible to be much more exact.

For example a line drawn by the light pointer on the 40 by 40 cm video screen, aided by the computer model of the CADAM software, is four times more accurate than a line drawn on a drawing-board with a rule. The electronic line is much closer to a mathematical straight line.

When required, drawings on a video screen can be reduced in size. Corrections or alterations to the drawings are immediately programmed and stored in the computer as are all the drawings and drawing details, and they can be instantly recalled.

The economic advantage of CADAM mainly involve the direct transfer of data from design to construction as well as less cost in making design changes.

Aided by the software it is possible, for instance, to look at a component drawing from different positions on the video screen and to take from this component a specific detail, enlarge it so that it can be corrected or altered.

The presentation possibilities of the CADAM system are almost unlimited. At MBB everything for the A320 has been developed and designed by the CADAM system, including the facilities for the construction of the aircraft and the metal and synthetic masterials for the plane itself.

The definition phase of the A320 on the video screen has ended. Now begins the detailed construction, and since the aircraft is divided up between the Airbus partners MBB is concerned with the fuselage and the tail plane.

Every component, either of metal or synthetic materials, that is part of a structural unit, will be drawn with a light pointer on the video screen.

An important operation on the video screen is drawings of milled components, complex aluminium or titanate parts, that are milled from large panels.

Using a post office link-up it is possible for Hamburg or Bremen to transmit instructions as to the geometry of the parts to be milled to the milling equipment at the MBB central machine works in Varel.

It is possible to transmit via CADAM data for the production of aluminium or synthetic parts, the production of fuselage parts, the assembly of fuselage sections and the tail plane.

When the computer has been given building parts to store via CADAM the required information can be called back with the aid of micro-film without having to use a drawing.

The video screen drawings on micro-film are enlarged and processed to the work point with a "work card". The micro-film can be put on display on the video screen.

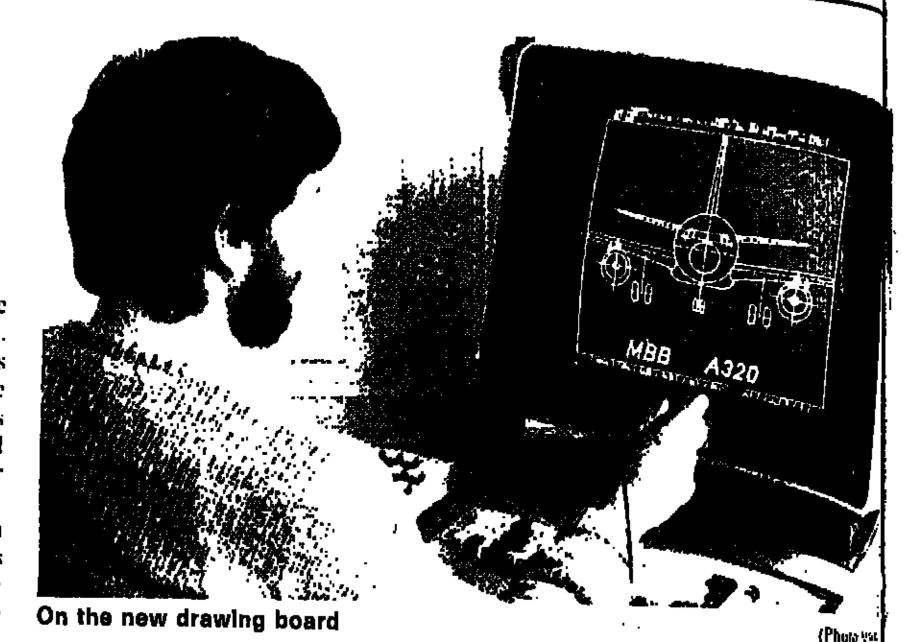
Large drawings, stored by CADAM can be produced directly with the aid of a plotter.

Speedy technological advances in the aviation industry means that production cycles have been considerably shortened. The CADAM system is a considerable aid to this trend.

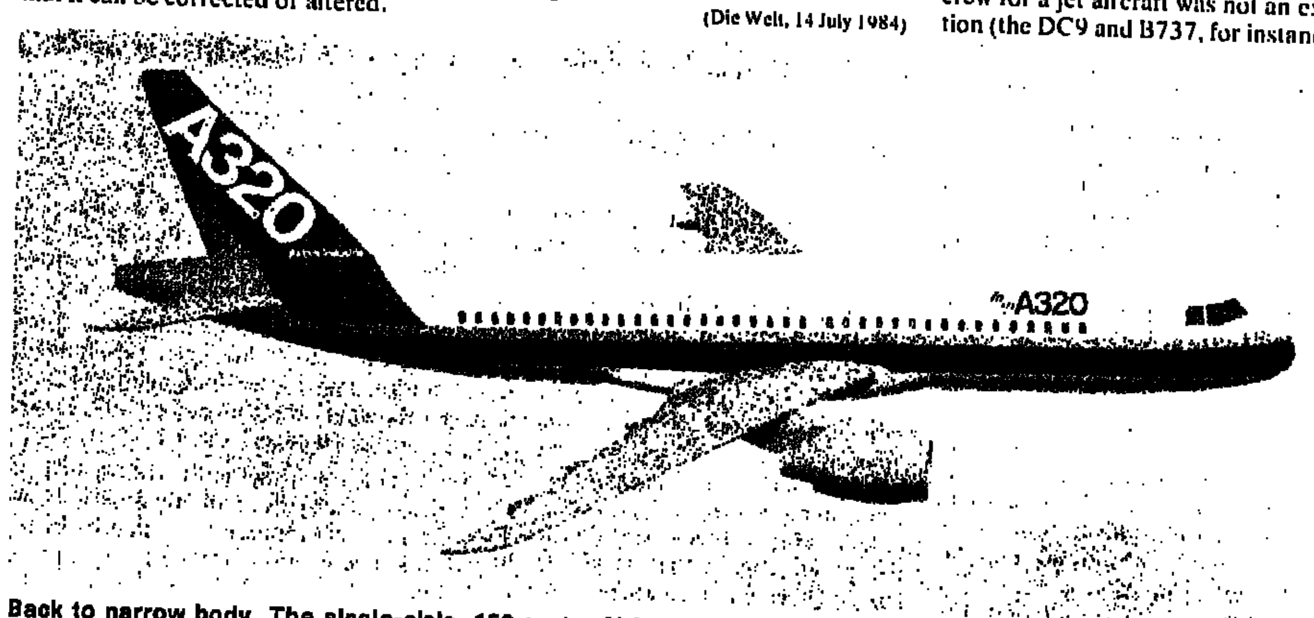
Airbus Industrie is equipping A320 with the very latest in tehnological developments.

A320 will be equipped not only with a development of the aerofoil used in the A 300 and fully electronic controls, but also with an "integrated flight data system" that can trace damage and irregularities before they have any effect on the flight.

(Die Welt, 14 July 1984)



On the new drawing board (Photo: ...)



Back to narrow body. The single-aisle, 150-seater Airbus A320 now being built. (Photo: Airbus Industrie)

Crew-of-two Airbus 310 allays pilot objections

The second Airbus, the A310, has been in operation for about a year and has carried about a million passengers.

The aircraft's performance has pleased the German carrier, Lufthansa, and seems to have overcome initial objections by flight deck crew over cockpit technology.

In the development stages, pilots objected strongly to plans to eliminate the flight engineer and thus reduce the crew from three to two. There were even strike threats.

But now Vereinigung Cockpit, the pilot and engineers union, says fears have not been borne out and the aircraft has shown itself to be as safe as other machines.

What has happened is that a computer has taken over the role of the third man, the flight engineer. The technology of the craft means that the two remaining members of the crew now have all the controls in front of them.

Previously, dials and warning lights needed so much space that they were installed out of sight of the pilot in panels at the side, where the flight engineer sat.

On the A310, switch and dial space has been saved and everything that needs to be looked at has been incorporated in a small console within the pilot's vision.

The aim of the aircraft's designers was economy in fuel consumption and personnel. It has achieved both.

Pilots came out strongly against this reduction in crew, although a two-man crew for a jet aircraft was not an exception (the DC9 and B737, for instance).

The pilots not only feared that in the air the flight crew would be too heavily burdened, but, more importantly, there would be a decline in safety standards. Critics said: "Six eyes see more than four."Not for the first time soulless and possibly sensitive technology caused mistrust.

The new Boeing 737-200 shows particularly how claims of aircraft makers are not always met, says Vereinigung Cockpit.

Aviation has made a massive leap forwards with the Airbus 310, according to experts. The new wings have reduced wind resistance and greater lift, and the aircraft's computerised systems and information technology are considerable technological advances.

Electronic sensors, computerisation and newly-designed coloured screens working together, efficiently give the crew flight information and make it possible to automat flight procedures even more.

The A310 has an automatic flight system, that conveniently provides the crew with information on the condition of all equipment on board.

Warning "feelers" that can extend to the furthest corners of the A310 aircraft, track down irregularities with precision and when there is a hitch both pilots are provided simultaneously with visual and written directions.

The system goes even further. It suppresses for the moment warnings that are not important for a particular phase of the flight, so that pilots are not unnecessarily worried.

Luthansa pilots report, for instance, that at take-off only at a certain speed are fire-warnings "let through".

The automatic flight control system is made up of the traditional automatic pilot, the automatic propulsion control, the path computer and the electronic flight instrument system.

Theoretically the plane can be left to itself, for the "safety net" ensures that the automation does not endanger the plane. It goes without saying, so Lufthansa, that the plane can land blind completely automatically.

Despite the complexity of its systems the Airbus 310 has proven itself to be a fully developed product.

"Fears have not been justified and the operation of the aircraft has been as safe as other machines," Vereinigung Cockpit says. Lufthansa has the largest fleet of A310s, eight aircraft and the results after a year of operations have been "magnificent".

(Bremer Nachrichten, 14 July 1984)

■ THE ARMS RACE

The militarisation of space raises moral conflicts

Albert Einstein's craggy, care-worn face looked down on visitors to a two-day conference of scientists held in Göttingen to consider the implications of militarisation in outer space.

Einstein looked down from posters all over Göttingen University as though he was inexpressibly saddened by premonitions of what his discoveries were to lead to.

The ageing Nobel laureate's features advertised a city-centre rally of concerned physicists, chemists and mathematicians to protest against "Star Wars" militarisation.

A Göttingen group of scientists associated with the peace movement invited fellow-scientists to attend the conference, learn more about the "Star Wars" project and consider the scientific community's role in this alarming drama of the future.

Göttingen seemed an appropriate venue for such a gathering, and not just because it is a university town with a distinguished scientific tradition.

Twenty-seven years ago 18 scientists spoke out in Göttingen against the consequences of nuclear armament. They included Otto Hahn, Carl Friedrich von Weizsäcker, Max Born and Werner Heisenberg.

The organisers were doubtless hoping to trigger a similar clarion call in sending out invitations to Max Planck research institutes and university science departments all over Germany.

In July 1983 a similar congress in Mainz was attended by 3,000 scientists. In November this year a congress on biological and chemical warfare is to be held in Mainz.

Star Wars are not an immediate prospect or even an imminent one, but they have progressed from science fiction to scientific laboratories.

President Reagan started the ball rolling with his 23 March 1983 Star Wars speech in which he called on scientists and technicians to develop a space defence system against nuclear missiles.

He feels the project will help to keep the peace. Opponents of this fresh turn of the screw in the arms race feel it will make peace even less safe and sure.

In the Federal Republic of Germany the Star Wars speech was either ignored or greeted with a shake of the head.

The hundreds of billions of dollars that are to be invested in a programme employing over half the US scientific community surpasses the normal range of powers of imagination.

But German physicists and mathematicians seem most alarmed.

Scientists know that their findings hold good worldwide. A formula discovered in a German laboratory today could tomorrow form part of an American or Russian *killer satellite* programme.

Transferring weapon systems to outer space will not promote peace, or so the Göttingen conference organisers say. They feel it will increase the likelihood of nuclear warfare.

The fear of a first strike that might destroy everything, the unreliability of increasingly complex, breakdown-prone computer systems and the possibility of spy satellites being knocked out by the enemy make peace anything but safer, the conference was told.

"For many scientists the limits of readiness to participate in such dangerous plans has been exceeded," said conference organiser Professor Schneider, a geologist, in his opening address.

But this statement was not further specified. An exact borderline between basic research and applied science, with its military ramifications, cannot be drawn.

No-one can say how serious the conflict of conscience must be before scientists decide to have nothing more to do with military research programmes.

In the United States, said Congressman George Brown, most scientists associated with military research programmes are either not interested in the political or moral consequences of their work or dependent on military research for their livelihoods.

The situation is probably much the same in Germany even though there are no space research programmes here with military uses.

Yet a greetings telegram to the Göttingen conference was signed by 170 of the 700 scientists who work at the German Aerospace Research Establishment in Munich.

The conference was not, in any case, aimed at persuading scientists to make spectacular pledges not to work on military projects. Its purpose was to warn against a trend that was felt to be ominous.

"We must bear in mind the consequences of our activity," Professor Schneider said. "We must think matters through to their conclusion, as Galilei says in Brecht's play, unless we are content to be useful jacks-of-all-trades whose services can be hired for all purposes."

This appeal to the scientific community's sense of moral and political responsibility prompted several speakers to look further afield than their scientific disciplines.

Professor Hans-Peter Dürr, director of the Max Planck Physics and Astrophysics Institute, Munich, and an expert on quantum and gravitational fields, gave a lecture on deterrent strategies.

Göttingen mathematician Eckart Maus, whose speciality is algebraic number theory, drew up a draft treaty banning space armament.

Nuclear physicist Victor Weisskopf, 76, a former pupil of Max Born's and, alongside Linus Pauling, one of the two grand old men at the conference, delivered an impassioned address on first-strike strategies and arms limitation.

The conference was more anti-American than anti-Soviet, although doubtless unintentionally.

But since scientists were more conversant with American research projects and political objectives, only American projects were mentioned — although few speakers failed to refer to the Soviet arms build-up.

Both sides were mentioned in appeals for disarmament.

Given America's lead in microelectronics and computer programming, scientists felt the United States had the edge in militarising outer space and held it responsible for the arms race.

They also felt they were more likely to be able to exert influence on the United States than on the Soviet Union. "At least we have *some* influence there," Professor Weisskopf said, "whereas a gathering of this kind couldn't even be held in the Soviet Union.

"But we have to live with the country even though we dislike and even hate its social system. A war would be the death of us all."

The catalogue of political objectives that were felt to need achieving if nuclear disaster was to be forestalled sounded little different from what politicians of all hues never tire of telling us needs doing.

"We need detente and cooperation. The Soviet Union must not feel we are a threat to it. We must disarm, negotiate and foster understanding," Professor Weisskopf said at the city-centre rally.

An audience of 4,000 applauded his words as though he had just proclaimed the all-encompassing formula for ensuring world peace.

Hans-Anton Papendieck

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 9 July 1984)

Science, a force for social progress, or...?

At this year's Lindau conference of Nobel laureates a speaker mentioned for the first time the clash between science as it sees itself and how others see it.

The point was raised by London biochemist Maurice Wilkins in a paper on the grand claim made by science.

This claim, he said, stood in stark contrast to the less pleasant view of scientists held by society as a whole, which holds them responsible for environmental destruction and the arms race.

Wilkins, 68, shared in 1962 with Watson and Crick the Nobel medicine prize for discovering the molecular structure of nucleic acids.

He said he was brought up to believe implicitly in science as a force for social progress. He was full of naive confidence in the power of common sense.

He is now a committed opponent of scientific collaboration of any kind in research and development for military purposes. And he knows what he is talking about.

During the Second World War he was for several years associated with the US project to develop and manufacture the atomic bomb. Was it, he wondered, an irony of fate?

"Blessed is the man of science," wrote Euripides in the 5th century BC. "He does mankind no evil and is not implicated in unjust activities."

Much of what has lent science so much dignity since the Ancient World is still valid, Wilkins says. Scientists believe there is a pattern in nature and try impartially to identify it. Science still relies on consensus, cooperation and the honesty and integrity of the researcher.

The quest for scientific knowledge is a quest for a part of eternal truth. But most scientists, Wilkins complains, are far too busy to bother with the truth.

He is also keenly aware of the scientific community's overweening pride, especially today's molecular and sociobiologists.

They make far too grandiose claims, he feels, asserting that their science is capable of covering and grasping the sum total of human problems. Scientists must aim at greater humility.

To use scientific findings or know-how for destructive or socially harmful ends runs absolutely counter to the

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■ THE THEATRE

Conflict: Star of David on their backs and fear in their hearts

Frankfurter Allgemeine

How far can people go in self-defence? When do victims lose their moral circumspection? When do they become so like their torturers that they throw in the towel?

These questions are posed in almost every scene of Joshua Sobol's *Ghetto* produced by Paul Zadek. The piece is set in June 1942, ten days before the liquidation of the Vilna Ghetto. It jumps from one borderline situation to another.

In the Second World War the Germans set up a kind of municipal government in the Lithuanian capital, similar to those set up in other cities, with a Jewish council, work brigades, a Jewish court of law and Jewish police.

Jews who wanted to rescue their fellows from deportation and death had to work with the Germans. How close should, must, this cooperation be? Conflicts of conscience and decisions that led to death were unavoidable.

The Israeli author Joshua Sobol subjected these conflicts to examination in his existentialist play. He had a theatre group set up in the ghetto. They danced and sang with the yellow Star of David on their backs and anxiety in their hearts.

The author used the entertainment value of this frivolous genre without ever letting the deathly earnestness of his theme get overshadowed. He overlayed cries of pain with exaggerated noises. He parried collapse with a tango. Where tears were inadequate he caused laughter.

The balancing act put on by the Berliner Freie Volksbühne in Zadek's production is much to be admired. The players do not hold back from any extreme, but give a feeling, when they play, fresh, sentimental, shrill and matter-of-fact, that the players in the Ghetto play with their lives.

Ghetto is to appear in September as a book with pictures from the West Berlin premiere, from Quadriga-Verlag, the West Berlin publishing house.

The piece was first performed in Haifa in May this year. Joshua Sobol, unknown here, who came to the West Berlin first performance, is an extraordinarily prolific author.

He was born in Tel Aviv in 1939, was seven years in a kibbutz, studied philosophy at the Sorbonne and has lived in Tel Aviv since 1970, working on the socialist daily *Al Hamishmar*. No fewer than fifteen of his Hebrew plays have been performed in Israeli theatres.

Joshua Sobol takes themes from Jewish history and contemporary Israeli life for his plays — the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans and the harmful role played by fanatical nationalism; the critical days before the founding of the State of Israel: the myths and estimations of early Zionism; Israel's religious establishment, satirised by Sobol; the disintegration of heroic ideals in the realities of war. Joshua Sobol is obsessed with the question: what is a Jew? In his play *Weininger's Night* he produces a feverish picture of the Jewish thinker Otto Weininger, who despised "the Jew" more than "woman". It is a dramatic analysis of the Jewish anti-Semitism of Karl Luerger, the Mayor of Vienna, of Jewish self-hate, in fact. No iron is too hot for Sobol's writing hand to grasp it.

The star of the West Berlin production of *Ghetto* is Esther Ofarim. She is touching but not sentimental. Only towards the end when she is in the library looking for instructions on how to use bombs does she become an unsuitable cliché of the female partisan fighter. Until then she sings tenderly and sadly, short Yiddish songs, defers to Gershwin's jazz with *Swansea* and the tear-jerker — Parlez-moi d'amour.

She should have shouted with joy but her style did not permit joy. She sang of the frightful situation in which she was.

The Ghetto theatre was placed in neo-expressionistic settings by Johannes Grützke. Jakob Gens, the Jewish police chief, believed it was a means of reminding the Jews of their creativity, their culture and the necessity of solidarity.

He stood sceptically in apposition to the socialist Hermann Kruk, leader of the labour organisation, the only Jewish organisation in the Ghetto that was democratically elected.

Kruk wants to boycott the theatre. He said: "You don't have theatre in the cemetery." Three weeks before 50,000 Jews were murdered.

Kruk and Gens represent two opposing moral convictions. Gens is of the view that the Jews will not be deported, so long as they are part of the theatre group. He believes his position is morally so strong that he breaks up the labour organisation and threatens his opponent Kruk with deportation to a death camp.

Ernst Jacobi, who plays the socialist Kruk, has difficulty defending his idealistic position in the realities of the camp.

Michael Degen, who plays the realist Gens, is the total embodiment of his convictions. He argues about the smallest thing. No one who was not in the Ghetto would have the courage to take him on. With the Star of David on his black uniform he is a laughing stock figure of an SS man, but his internal sense of security makes a laughing stock of every one of his opponents. In the Ghetto there are much worse conflicts than the disputes over the theatre. The textile manufacturer Weisskopf sets up a laundry and tailor's shop to make German uniforms. He dreams of a five-year plan with Göring and sees himself as a successful entrepreneur who can probably provide work for a possible few workers doing possibly a lot of work. Otto Tausig plays informer Weisskopf as a comic. His pride in his job makes him into a monster.



Touching but not sentimental. Esther Ofarim (left) as ghetto singer in *Ghetto* with power-drunk SS officer Kittel (Ulrich Tukur).

Gens had to face up to the most frightful decision. The Oschmann Ghetto was put under him with the order that 12,000 Jews, half of Ghetto's inhabitants, were to be put to death by the Jewish police.

Gens beats down the number and eventually has four hundred old and sick Jews put to death.

This corresponds to Sartre's philosophy of dirty hands, when he says that he cannot afford to have a clear conscience. He says: "To save a few Jews I was obliged to hand over others for death. There was nothing left to me but to wallow in the mud."The theatre group sing and dance between this and many other scenes, that take into account and defend the emotional and physical resistance of the Jews to cooperation with the Germans.

A ventriloquist puts his life at risk when he gives his dummy the order — Chuzpe —. He lets the dummy tell the awful truth and seems to try to head it off. Whilst scolding the dummy he admits that what he says is true. Hermann Lause plays the ventriloquist in a stunned manner as does Alexandre Guini the dummy.

Gens is obliged to condemn three Jewish black marketeers to death for murder, hung by the Jewish police and have a party with the theatre group. Weisskopf organises the buffet with the aid of one of the black marketeers already hung.

This is all only possible because SS Officer Kittel admires the Jews, their vitality, their industry, their imagination and their humour. Kittel is transformed into a Dr Paul "from Rosenberg's staff" who wants to study Jewish culture before they are murdered. He laughs about the way the Jews have learned, in the Ghetto and in Palestine, to go along with those in power. "That is our distorted character."

Kittel has two black cases with him. In one there is a saxophone, because he *likes jazz, and in the other there is a machine* gun, because he loves to play with death.

Ulrich Tukur manages to play this Kittel so that he is capable of anything. No one knows who he will be in the next moment, the saxophonist or the murderer. He is not a demon, only a fish-eyed, snot-nose, drunk with his power. He is a jolly monster who sneers at death. Nothing is more frightful about him than his humour.

In the most horrible of all the revue numbers the theatre group's costumes sing and dance. They tell how they have been boiled alive, beaten, gassed and dismembered. Representing the murdered Jews the costumes embrace and dance a tango. When the head of the players creeps out of the costumes SS Officer Kittel praises their imagination and shoots them with his pistol.

It is a shattering end. When they are murdered everything to do with theatre is dead — or so it seems for a short while.

Then Zadek lets the virtuoso clarinettist Giora Feidmann appear once more. As at the beginning of *Ghetto* when he recalled survivors from the past so he led the performance back into the past with music. His clarinet creates distance and the distance makes applause possible.

Who should be praised the most, Esther Ofarim, Michael Degen or Ulrich Tukur? They are all three exceptionally good.

And how to praise Zadek? He has answered all the questions as to whether this inadmissible blend of mass murder and musical should be presented or no by his production. It is admissible when done as he has done it.

Georg Hensel

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 July 1984)

Deathly earnestness never overshadowed: a scene from Ghetto

(Photos: Roswitha Heck)

■ ENTERTAINMENT

Americans wait in the wings for European television film boom

Sooner or later, says Hollywood producer Jack Valenti, there will be only 1,000 cinemas left in Germany, with a weekly change of programme.

Young people will see films at the cinema, while older folk will watch them at home, preferring either video or satellite TV.

As the system will work worldwide there will be virtually no limits to the production budgets of major film companies, who will control networks too.

This forecast can readily be shored up by facts and figures. At the present rate there will be 30 TV channels available in each of the EEC countries by 1990, whereas now they can be numbered on the fingers of one hand.

Assuming each to be on the air for 10 hours a day and films to account for 30 per cent of programmes, that would mean 250,000 hours of feature films a year would be needed for screening in the European Community.

With only six years to go, France, Italy and Britain, the three major film producers in the EEC, produce a mere 1,000 hours a year, whereas Belgium for instance totals a paltry 20 hours.

Small wonder the major US film companies are confident there will be a gap for them to step in and fill. They expect European earnings to total over DM4bn a year!

So much for figures. But they must be borne in mind to gain some idea why European film directors are increasingly alarmed.

Not everyone goes as far as Volker Schlöndorff, who would soonest bar US productions from the European TV market. "Why not be protectionist to begin with?" he asks. "Let them fend for themselves. There is bound to be fighting in the arts."

Most European film directors are more moderate in their views. They compared notes in Munich recently, where FERA, the Federation of European Film Directors, held a conference on The Media in the 21st Century — A Challenge for European Film-Makers.

FERA stands for Fédération Européenne des Réalisateurs Audiovisuels. It has a membership of roughly 400 European cinema and TV film-makers.

FERA's president, Peter Fleischmann, made it clear in Munich that there was no question of European directors wanting to stem the tide of progress.

"We have nothing against the new media," he said. "What we object to is the no-holds-barred come-what-may approach governed solely by profit motives."

What he and his fellow-directors want is to have a say in developments, not to stall them. "Our aim is to look after the interests of the viewing public."

They are even less alarmed at the prospect of switching from celluloid to tape. "We will be in the vanguard of developments provided they head in the right direction."

At present they aren't heading that way, or at least, developments are progressing regardless of film directors.

Belgium, for instance, has been compulsorily covered by cable TV, which is mere wishful thinking where Bonn Posts and Telecom Minister Christian Schwarz-Schilling is concerned.

Yet there is not a single Belgian film director on the board that supervises cable TV programmes. There are no plans for directors to be represented on similar watchdog bodies in Germany either.

If Belgium sets a bad example, then France is exemplary in the positive sense. French Arts Minister Jack Lang has guided through the National Assembly legislation designed to end "audio-visual piracy."

The new French law provides for directors to have a mandatory say in how producers market their films. Films cannot be marketed on video until they have been networked in cinemas for a year.

This provision is controversial, of course. Jean-Paul Belmondo has challenged it in court.

In Germany films locally made are allowed six months in which to earn money at the box office, and US producers have accepted this arrangement by way of a gentlemen's agreement.

Owners of video recorders can judge for themselves whether the trade abides by this arrangement. It is certainly doubtful whether it is an effective means of combating video piracy, which M. Lang calls a "perverse development of technology."

Directors set greater store by a fund to be set up by the European Community to subsidise distribution.

"It is up to individual countries to look after domestic productions," an EEC official explained in Munich, "but when it comes to distribution the European Community will lend a hand."

Arts Ministers in the Common Market have already agreed in principle to set up the fund. It has now embarked on its long march through European Community institutions.

It remains to be seen whether directors will last the distance. No matter how much help is provided it will be extremely difficult to survive the onslaught of the majors.

If the worst comes to the worst, Jack Valenti may well be proved right and people will go to the cinema in much the same way as people go to the theatre now — as a subsidised minority.

Wolf Kasmer

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 18 July 1984)

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spirit of science, the British Nobel laureate says.

If science is to regain its dignity scientists must concern themselves directly with the unpleasant problem of morally questionable uses of science.

In particular, they must not close their eyes to the frightening extent of war research. Many medics are working on ways and means of killing or injuring people by way of chemical or biological warfare.

Wilkins recalled in Lindau that in the First World War the German chemist and Nobel laureate Fritz Haber had enthusiastically paved the way for large-scale use of mustard gas.

He also noted that in the Second World War insecticides were developed into nerve gases in Germany (even though they may not have been used).

Modern chemical weapons consisted of two individually non-toxic substances that only became a lethal nerve gas when combined.

The US government had since 1980 applied for budget funds to develop such binary weapons. Congress had yet to sanction them.

The only hope of disarmament in chemical weapons was if no further development went ahead on binary weapons.

Biological weapons, he said, were first developed (but not used) by Britain in the Second World War, whereas Japanese medics tried them out on a large scale on prisoners of war.

The US Defence Department is currently underwriting 43 research projects on viruses, bacteria and toxins. In six cases the aim is to clone antidotes to nerve gases.

It is hard to say whether projects are offensive or defensive in character, Wilkins feels. Genetic engineering certainly opens up many new approaches to biological warfare.

New diseases could for instance be developed to infect one ethnic group but not another. Diseases could also be developed that were transmitted by germs resistant to antiobiotics.

Roughly half government spending on research and development in the West (and probably a similar proportion in the East) is devoted to military objectives.

Bio-scientists in particular, Wilkins says, must be strictly opposed to war research for biological and chemical warfare. Otherwise they would, like physicists, forfeit the right to freedom of research and publication.

Fear of some purported evil or other that was alleged to be a threat to national security could, he said, make criminals of people.

Officials of the Inquisition in the Middle Ages were convinced of the need to burn others at the stake.

Roger Bacon, a Franciscan scholar, forecast in the 12th century that science without a moral groundwork would be as blind as hell. That was a fair description of what was happening here and now.

Maurice Wilkins would like to see scientists come to see themselves in a different light and society to take a different view of science. The moral dimension of science has been dismissed, he says, for the sake of convenience.

It is a dimension that must be reintroduced. Even though a scientist might only concentrate on a tiny fragment of his discipline, he must still consider the implications of his work.

Science thus has a religious dimension inasmuch as the scientific equivalent of the idea of God is the idea of a universal natural order.

Scientists along the lines Wilkins would like to see are people with open minds who probe nature with a love that has no desire to possess, much as someone who is in love tries to find out what makes the other "tick."

The narrow confines of the specialist must be joined by the wider view of a scientist capable of looking further afield.

He quotes Socrates as saying that an unproven life is a life not worth living and adds that an unproven scientific life is one that is not worth living either.

Martin Urban

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 12 July 1984)

HEALTH

Listless school pupils face dangers in patent medicines, warn doctors

Hannoversche Allgemeine

Doctors are worried that too many children may be given patent medicines claimed to help them cope with stress at school when what they really need is closer parental care and individual medical attention.

High-powered advertising campaigns by drug manufacturers are aimed at parents and may achieve little more than groom generations of schoolchildren for drug addiction, two Hanover specialists warn.

The advertising is extremely persuasive, showing a tired and nervous child at his desk. His head rests on his hand. He looks listless and a little tearful. Books are open and homework has clearly not been done.

But is such an everyday scene as the advertiser claims? This tired and careworn lad, blearily gazing at his homework, is part of an advertisement headed: "When learning difficulties are the result of a conflict with the environment..."

The advertising copy goes on to explain what can be done about learning difficulties that are said to be the cause of such upsets. The medicine recommended is claimed to make the child readjustable.

More and more schoolchildren are taking pills and tablets to improve their performance at school. More and more doctors are prescribing drugs to influence the child's mind. More and more parents are prepared to keep nervous children quiet by medication.

Figures published from time to time by doctors and politicians are alarming, but we still lack clear facts about the use and abuse of drugs on children and juveniles.

The Federal Health Education Centre in Cologne, commissioned a survey two years ago to find out who gives children pills and why and how often.

Thirty-six per cent of parents questioned felt there was nothing wrong about giving children and young people drugs to help them to concentrate and learn better.

One parent in five had no objections to giving children tranquilisers and sedatives to help them get a good night's sleep.

Figures have also been compiled and issued by Friedhelm Farthmann, Labour and Welfare Minister in North Rhine-Westphalia.

He has discovered, from medical prescription statistics, that in 1980 doctors prescribed sedatives and tranquilisers in nearly one million cases for children aged up to 11.

Social Democrats in the Lower Saxon state assembly recently stated that about one in three schoolchildren regularly took medicines.

Members of the medical profession also voice doubts as to the accuracy of such figures. Most prescriptions, they argue, are issued on grounds of medical necessity.

There are, for instance, hyperkinetic or hyperactive children. They used to be dismissed as fidgets but are now acknowledged to be ill.

American doctors say hyperkinetic nervous children suffer from a minimal cerebral dysfunction, a slight upset sustained at birth and thus an organic complaint requiring medical treatment.

In the United States an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 children a year are treated for this complaint. They respond to treatment, being less inclined to fidget, more attentive and better at school.

They are also said to feel happier and to change their outlook on life. Parents and teachers will surely breathe a sigh of relief.

But Edelhard Thoms, a doctor at a drug advice centre in Hanover, takes a different view. "People no longer stop to think how best to treat their children," he complains. "The kids are simply given medicine."

Rüdiger Lorentzen, a Hanover paediatrician, also has misgivings. Fidgeting children need not suffer from an organic complaint, he feels. They are often isolated and overtaxed, neglected in luxury, children of the video game generation.

Stress is the term he uses to describe the overriding children's complaint of the 1980s. Dr Thoms agrees. The educational system expects children to be constantly at their best and brightest.

Yet they often have so far to go to school that they are tired out by the time they get there. Parents expect them to excel too, and competition is so tough that the failures are soon identified.

Failures are then dismissed as no-hopers, with parents often accepting the teacher's opinion without as much as a murmur of dissent.

Dr Lorentzen says he knows of a number of instances in which parents have consulted a paediatrician and complained that their child has poor grades at school.

They expect the doctor to prescribe something to boost the child's school performance, to calm him down and to heighten his powers of concentration.

Is it true that a doctor's prescription is increasingly coming to replace conversation between parents and children? Are children in the 1980s in a state of emotional pauperisation?

The Federal government in Bonn and the Lower Saxon *Land* government in Hanover are both worried about the growing number of Germans who are hooked on medicines of one kind and another.

School is mainly a matter of learning lessons, and parents want to know what grades their children have.

Walter Wilken of the *Kinderschutzbund*, or League for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, in Hanover, says there is a clear link between pressure to perform at school and irresponsible use of patent medicines.

Many parents feel it is much easier to consult a doctor than a psychologist, he says. Besides, drug manufacturers run effective advertising campaigns.

That is certainly true. Special teas are marketed to soothe even babes-in-arms. It's a tough world for kids these days, admen argue. How lucky the product they sell is just what children need!

The two Hanover doctors are worried that ready resort to patent medicines will be the first step on the road to drug addiction, smoothing the path from childhood on.

While admitting that not all schoolchildren who take uppers and downers will end up addicted, they are worried by the idea that medicine will do the trick.

Vitamin preparations are clearly not going to do children any harm, but there must be something wrong with parents' attitudes when medication is their first resort.

When baby yells they make tea to pacify it. When children are worried about class tests and exams and show signs of nerves, it's off to the doctor's for a prescription.

If the kids are uncommunicative, have trouble in striking up acquaintanceships and are in any way unruly, tablets and pills are expected to work wonders.

"But a medicine," Dr Lorentzen says, "is never as powerful as the patient's problem." And anxiety cannot be cured by medication.

Susanne Stein

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 18 July 1984)

Anatomy of the adolescent vandal in the big city

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Sociologists and criminologists see no really effective means of combating juvenile aggression and vandalism in German cities, a Wuppertal conference has been told.

Sociologist Professor Josef M. Häussling, vice-chancellor of Wuppertal University, reached this conclusion at an international conference on violence and the city.

Chairing the conference, he said the city had become the "central environment" of young people.

But nowhere was there such a strict division between adolescents and adults as in the city, where the young had their own meeting-places and large schools tended to be isolated and "out of the way."

By virtue of being set aside, young people built up aggression against the adult world, frequently leading to vandalism such as destruction of cars and telephone booths.

Adolescents had a particularly hard time of it in newly-built suburban areas where anonymity was even greater and there was often a dearth of leisure facilities.

So town planners must aim at incorporating youth centres in the overall urban environment and integrating juveniles in city life.

dpa

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 7 July 1984)

Trying to cure speech defects early

Frankfurter Allgemeine

ZEITUNG FÜR DEUTSCHLAND

Children in a Bonn school playground during break are as noisy as kids anywhere. You wouldn't think, to see them play, they were any different from others.

But they are, and being different from the others can be terrible for children, especially if, like the ones at this school, you have a speech defect.

Many have hare lips and surgery behind them. Most are stutterers. But there are as many impediments as causes, and they often occur in combination with other handicaps.

They can so easily condemn young people to lives as outsiders, and often, as with stutterers, the problems are compounded.

In serious cases sufferers can be unable to hold down a normal job. Youngsters with speech defects feel isolated and are often depressed.

People around them show little understanding. They often have nothing but derision for people who through no fault of their own have to cope with such problems. Legally, they qualify as handicapped.

Speech training at special schools has been a legal obligation on welfare institutions since 1961. Facilities have been provided voluntarily in the Rhineland since 1956.

The Bonn special school has been housed in a fine old building in Oberkassel, a Bonn suburb, since 1959. Set in a park by the Rhine, it looks more like a country house than a hospital.

Yet it is funded from North Rhine-Westphalia's hospitals budget.

The peaceful surroundings are part of the treatment. Mental balance and peace of mind are essential if stutterers are to be cured.

Doctors, speech therapists, psychologists and youth workers look after 64 children and under-18s, providing group and individual therapy, with the emphasis on suggestive speech training.

Handicrafts, rhythmic training and sports also form part of the treatment, with musical activity being encouraged to ease inhibitions.

For two years school facilities have been provided to enable patients, who often spend several months at the centre, to keep up with the curriculum back home.

Great importance is attached to consultation with parents and members of the family, who are often at a loss how to help. In many cases their misguided educational methods have made matters worse.

When outpatient treatment seems unlikely to help, the patient's family doctor can, with the backing of local health authorities, refer them to the centre.

The cost of treatment is usually met by health insurance schemes or welfare departments. Hundreds of young people have been helped over the past 25 years.

Experience at the Bonn centre, which collaborates closely with Cologne University special education department, is readily available to other facilities, such as kindergartens, speech therapists and stutterers' self-help groups.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 July 1984)

■ MODERN LIVING

Rockets burst but drum skins stay tight

Almost half a million people watched André Heller's *Theatre of Fire* in West Berlin.

They watched the spectacle from the Platz der Republik in front of the Reichstag building, on the road to the Tiergarten and even in East Berlin behind the barriers where space had been created by the East Berlin border guards behind the Brandenburg Gate.

Despite this enormous crush of people there was no accident of note. The multi-talented Heller from Vienna, thanked the crowds for their discipline and "fantastic peaceableness" by loudspeaker.

There was panic at his previous fireworks show in Lisbon last year, when the spectacle was not planned and so was less effective.

In the centre of West Berlin there was traffic chaos in the early hours of the morning. The Red Cross had to give first aid to 600 people and 53 persons suffered circulatory disturbances and slight injuries.

Heller, 37, produced ten fire pictures under the pretentious title "World and fantasy or plunging through dreams" that were "composed" on scaffolding 200 metres high and 500 metres wide. The displays were symbolic stories; a burning heart opened and a war horror who released the word "anxiety", the *fire-throwing pre-historic armoured* creatures that battle with each other and the figure of salvation with the six arms of the goddess Shiva. It was all rather ingenuous and disturbing.

The spectators were attracted by the fantasy of the fireworks shooting high into the sky that were greeted by rounds of applause.

Quadrophonic music accompanied the entertainment, prepared by the Munich opera composer Walter Haupt from the music of Stravinsky, Moussorgsky, Handel and Orff, amplified to 70,000 watts.

The fear that the drum-skins would burst were unfounded. Handel's Halleluja Chorus could be heard quite clear-

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What a flaming night! Heller's firework display in West Berlin. (Photo: AP)

Photo exhibition shows the reality of a divided land

More than 85,000 people in 17 cities have visited a travelling photographic exhibition aimed at showing the realities of the border between the two Germanies.

A post office telecommunications technician, Jürgen Ritter, spent 20,000 marks of his own money and spent two years on the project which took him along the 1,393-kilometre border.

Ritter lives at Barum, near Ulzen, not twenty kilometres from the border.

He said: "I bought myself a camera *and looking through its lenses sharp*ened my awareness for this frontier demarcation with its refinements for death."

Loaded with twelve kilograms of photographic equipment he went along the border from Priwall near Travemünde to Hof in Bavaria, and he returned home with more than 10,000 pictures.

"When a wrong is accepted long enough it becomes a right," he said, referring to complacency he had observed which prompted him to take on the project.

A dozen of his pictures were put on show eighteen months ago at Bad Beversen and eventually the show travelled through North Germany under the title "German-German Reality". Over one hundred pictures were displayed.

His pictures of the barbed-wired division of the two Germanies with its mines, automatic firing devices and watch towers was shown in 17 cities. The pictures show the inhuman character of this frontier, divided pathways, roads, houses, railway lines and waterways.

Eight crosses bearing a name mark where fugitives trying to get across the frontier were shot.

"My exhibition does not display the historical background of the line that divides the two Germanies, but shows the position as it is today," Ritter said.

Ritter's pictures are regarded with esteem by the West German Intra-German Relations Ministry and the Lower Saxony Ministry for Federal Affairs in Hanover. He is to get financial support for his work.

Ritter has founded a society for "frontier victims". Its aim is to make things easier for fugitives from East Germany to integrate into West German society.

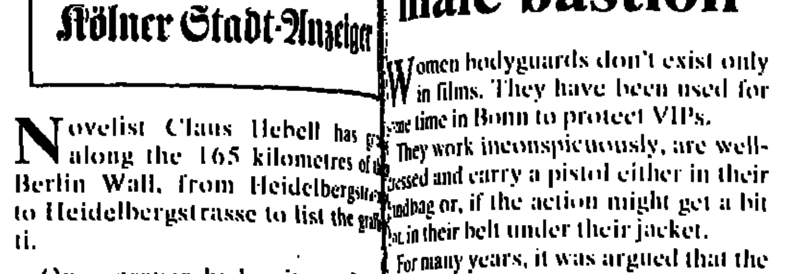
Ritter gets a considerable amount of mail from East Germany and more and more legal emigrants from East Germany seek his assistance.

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 18 July 1984)

Ritter's reality (Photo: Jürgen Ritter)

The writing's on the wall (Photo: Poly-...)

Collecting the graffiti on the Berlin Wall



Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

Novelist Claus Hebell has g... along the 165 kilometres of the Berlin Wall, from Heidelbergstr... to Heidelbergstrasse to list the graffiti.

One sprayer had written: "Do yo... get a kick out of gaping?" Obvio... yes. "Long live the Wall graffiti ... ists". Some graffiti are written by ... er. "We came, we saw, we painted".

The Wall itself is the main bu... some peaceable, aggressive and in... texts. "In the long run the Wall ... protects those who built the Wall" ... scribbled on the gray Wall, or "Wh... pity that concrete cannot burn".

Another says pithily "Open S... same". Next to a sprayed-on d... there is the promise "Who p... through this door gets a mark fr... me." Or the warning: "Admission ... your own risk" or on the official ... tices at the various sectors "You a... leaving the cauliflower sector now".

Finally there is the well-intentio... advice "Make love, not walls."

One sprayer demands "Sex bo... for East Germany". Everyone gets ... or her leg pulled. "In the West the... dope and chocolate for everyone".

Some make immemorial comm... such as "Happy birthday, Gerd", ... the heartfelt comment "Wendy, ... blonde piece you, I love you", or ... ferring to the Berlin football te... "Hertha BSC never again in the ... tional league".

Claus Hebell has published ... findings of the Wall graffini in ... pages of the literary and cultural m... azine *KULTuhr*.

There is some philosophy in so... of the comments: "Pulling down ... better than spraying" and anoth... with an eye to the industry of his ... low-sprayers says "May we have ... other wall please. This one is dirty".

Birgit Lo...

(Kölner-Stadt Anzeiger, 17 July 19..)

■ SOCIETY

Women police crack last male bastion

Women bodyguards don't exist only in films. They have been used for ...me time in Bonn to protect VIPs.

They work inconspicuously, are well-...essed and carry a pistol either in their ...ndbag or, if the action might get a bit ...t, in their belt under their jacket.

For many years, it was argued that the ...b was far too hard for women. The ob-...ctions could not be sustained for ever. ...lice women are trained just like the ...en, so why can't they do the same ...ork? And have the same chances of ...romotion?

So it was that the bodyguard school in ...Bonn opened its doors to women. There ...ey learn how to handle weapons, kar-...te and psychology. Then their skills are ...ut to use the same way as their male colleagues.

Women are actually preferred in op-...rations to protect VIP wives because ...ey are less conspicuous.

But they guard men as well. At con-...ferences, on motor escort, at social ...vents.

Some officers accompany their VIP ...throughout the country for days at a ...me without ever speaking to them. ...Contact between foreign VIPs is gener-...ally more distant than with German pol-...iticians, for example, when friendly contact often develops. Many Bonn politicians and their wives know their shadows by name. Loki Schmidt , wife of former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, used to play table tennis with her shadow.

This form of police work is one of the last to be opened to women. Since the middle of the 1970s, they have done the same training as males and have been active in all forms of police work.

Sigrid Latka-Jöhring

(Der Tagesspiegel, 15 July 1984)



German delight for Turks

Franz Beckenbauer (left) is the new West German national soccer manager. Beckenbauer, who played a record 103 times for West Germany, succeeds highly criticised Jupp Derwall (right), who has resigned to take over leading Turkish club, Galatasaray Istanbul. (Photo: Horstmüller)

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...y, as well as the recorded voice of the ...tress Therese Giehse reciting Bert ...Brecht. Nevertheless most of the ac-...companying music was lost in the im-...mensity of the Platz.

...Heller used 25 tonnes of fireworks, ...including 40,000 rockets.

He worked for eight months on his ...programme and produced a "script" ...it was followed to the letter so that ...showers of stars, spirals of fire, glitter-...ing walls and blazing light all appeared ...at the right moment on the night.

According to Heller the whole cost ...DM1.5 million that was covered by the ...sale of 200,000 entrance "buttons" at ...five deutsche marks each and film ...rights, so that the DM700,000 guaran-...tee put up by the Senate was not needed.

...Insiders maintain, however, that the ...*Theatre of Fire* cost DM2.1 million and ...that the Senate will have to pay up.

But West Berlin's tourist industry profited from Heller's show. Airlines and bus companies laid on special trips from West Germany and abroad for the event. West Berlin's hotels were fully booked.

There was a fair atmosphere on the Platz der Republik before the event with jugglers, clowns, pantomime and fire-eaters doing their best to while away the time until the spectacle began.

There were sausages, meat balls, cucumbers, beer, long drinks and chocolate. Many spectators had arrived at Tiergarten by midday with picnic paskets. Others spent the night there in sleeping bags.

There were 600 stewards wearing red T-shirts and 1,000 police on duty. They were not aggressive but joined in the fun.

Liselotte Müller

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 9 July 1984)

Terrorist raid that never was

Eleven police wagons and a helicopter rushed 50 policeman to a town in Lower Saxony in a desperate bid to head off a terrorist attack on a sub post office on the outskirts of Vechta.

But when they got there, they found something very different.

The alarm had been set off by local residents who had seen six armed and camouflaged figures in a van.

But all police found was a Catholic boys camp where 21 children between seven and 14 were under the charge of six people including a Bundeswehr paratrooper on holiday.

They had decided to have a war game following a photocopy of Bundeswehr war game plans brought by the paratrooper. A raid was arranged on the sub post office building at the edge of the town.

The camp leaders were rapidly removed, parents came rushing from Lübeck to reclaim their children, and the pro- secutor's office is deciding what will happen next.

A police spokesman said :"There was a swaggering arrogance and naive lust for adventure about this episode which went beyond any educational function."

The cost of the police callout was 5,000 marks. The six camp leaders must pay for it.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 6 June 1984)

Men 'have no right' to maternity leave

Men do not have the right to maternity leave because their wives are having babies, the European Court in Luxembourg has ruled.

The ruling was handed down in the case of a German who was challenging a German medical insurance company.

The judges said there was no con travention of EEC equal rights provisions if a member nation did not offer the men the same rights that are given to women to protect them during pregnancy and motherhood.

The appellant had also claimed that the laws were designed not to protect the mother but the child, and therefore men ought not to be discriminated against.

The German government contested this by saying that the money for the mother had the sole function of making sure she did not return to work too soon and thereby jeopardise her health simply because of financial pressure.

The judges said that only the woman faced this pressure. Therefore all other people could be excluded from the reckoning.

dpa

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 13 July 1984)

Cheeky chap's appeal rejected

Beating youths on their bare bottoms is not justified as a disciplinary measure within the nation's legal system, the Federal Court of Justice in Karlsruhe has ruled.

It was hearing an appeal by a 41-year-old prosecutor who had been given a suspended sentence of a year in jail because of injuries inflicted in 20 cases of corporal punishment by the regional court in the North Rhine Westphalian centre of Kleve.

The Federal court, in dismissing the appeal, said the prosecutor had not only abused his official position but had also broken the law.

The court said the appellant had personally administered beltings on the bare buttocks to youths who had committed petty crimes.

Sometimes the punishment had been carried out with the consent of parents, but no recording of the punishments had been made.

dpa

(Kieler Nachrichten, 11 July 1984)

A whopper copper cropper as fixer goes for sixer

A Hamburg man employed by the post office to demolish telephone ...oxes has got into trouble with the po-...ce — just for doing his job.

The man, whose job involves making ...vandalised boxes safe, was smashing out ...the remaining glass in a damaged pane ...when he was pounced on from behind ...by two policemen who thought he was a ...vandal.

They threw him to the ground and ...snapped on the handcuffs. As a result ...the worker got neck and eyebrow injuries.

The whole matter was sorted out at the police station, and as a result, the two policemen were charged with wrongful arrest and causing bodily harm and were each fined 500 marks and given a caution. They were also ordered to pay 200 marks each to an environmental protection fund.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Posts says about 120 telephone box wreckers are employed in the larger centres to smash out damaged glass, seal off the damaged box and put up out-of-order signs.

And they are needed. In the past year, more than 81,000 of the nation's 120,000 public telephone boxes have been vandalised. In more than 16,000 cases, glass was broken. In 62,347 cases, the handpiece was either cut from its cord and removed or wrenched out.

Almost 3,000 coin containers were stolen, and in 300 cases, the telephone box was damaged beyond repair.

Cost to the Bundespost is estimated at more than 16.2 million marks plus another 2.4 million marks in lost revenue.

Only in 3,692 cases were the vandals either caught red handed or later found. From these, the Bundespost received restitution of 2.6 million marks.

Manfred Hüther

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 9 July 1984)

Back to school — at 86

Probably the oldest student in West Germany is at the oldest university in the country.

Next year Heidelberg University will be 600 years old. This year it has an 86-year-old studying law.

The veteran, who is interested in the law as it applies to juvenile crime, has already gained academic honours as a professor and doctor of theology, philosophy and medicine.

As a footnote: the university also has a student who has now graduated from the mathematics faculty but who has studied for 62 semesters, that is, 31 years.

And more than 120 students have notched up more than 30 semesters.

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 19 July 1984)